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CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

STAMPEDE AT MUMBAI RLY STATION, 10 HURT

Humongous rush at the Bandra railway station in Mumbai on Sunday. At least 10 people were injured, including one critically, in a stampede when hundreds of people attempted to board a Gorakhpur-bound train to head to their native places for the upcoming Diwali and Chhatth festival | PTI | **P8**

Jaishankar hard talk on no 26/11 govt retaliation

Says things have changed and India is now a global leader in fighting incidents of terror

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday did some hard talk on India's reaction to the November 26, 2008 Mumbai terror attack, saying "there was no response", but that would not be the case if it happens now. The strong language came just over three weeks before Maharashtra goes to polls on November 20.

Speaking on India's response to terrorism and what changed after 2014, Jaishankar said Mumbai is a symbol of counter-terrorism for India and the world. "We should not have a repeat of what happened in Mumbai. That there was a terror attack and there was no response."

He said things have changed now and India is now a leader in fighting terror.

Jaishankar fielded questions on issues ranging from terrorism to the India-China standoff and from investment to politics at a press conference in Mumbai. Reiterating the Modi government's policy that talks and terror cannot go together, he said, "When we talk of zero tolerance against terror, it is clear that when somebody does something, there will be a response."

"We also have to expose. It is not acceptable that you are doing business during daytime and indulging in terror during the night and I have to pretend that everything is okay."

When India was a member of the UN Security Council and chairing the counter-terrorism committee, the counter-terrorism panel's meeting was held in the same hotel that was hit by the 26/11 terror attack, the minister said.

Without naming China, he said the disengagement of troops at Depsang and Demchok in Ladakh is the first step, adding it is expected that India will return to the pre-2020 patrolling status. He, however, stressed that the next step of de-escalation won't be taken until India is assured of reciprocity from the other side.

Speaking on Manipur, Jaishankar said there are complex reasons behind what is happening, noting that some factors are historical and the rest concern the border situation.

EXPRESS READ

Shiv Sena fields Deora against Uddhav's son

MUMBAI: The Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday nominated Rajya Sabha member Milind Deora against ex-CM Uddhav Thackeray's son and Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Aaditya Thackeray from Mumbai's Worli in the upcoming assembly polls. Deora, a former Congress leader and Union minister of state, joined the Sena before the Lok Sabha polls this year.

Kodagu cops solve inter-state murder case

MADIKERI: The Kodagu police have cracked a sensational murder and arrested three accused for the murder of a Hyderabad man, whose burnt body was found at a private estate in Suntikoppa in Kodagu on October 8. The police, who had got several clues from the crime spot, succeeded in solving the case within 18 days of the incident | **P5**

50 flights, temple in Tirupati, many hotels get bomb threats

UJWAL JALALI, NAMITA BAJPAI & D SURENDRA KUMAR
@ New Delhi/Lucknow/Tirupati

THE hoax bomb threat menace continued for the aviation industry on Sunday, as more than 50 flights received calls, keeping security agencies on their toes. The Sri Varadaraja Swamy temple in Tirupati and a couple of hotels there, as also over a dozen prominent hotels in Lucknow received similar threats.

Flights which received hoax bomb threats included 18 of IndiGo, 17 of Vistara, and 15 of Akasa Air. Most of the threats were issued through social media posts.

While this is the first time a bomb threat was sent to a temple in Tirupati, at least half a dozen hotels in the temple city received hoax bomb threats over the past three days. The Alipiri police received a mail regarding the bomb threat at the TTD-run temple.

Tirupati police conducting searches at a hotel after a bomb threat | EXPRESS

Bomb disposal teams and sniffer dogs were deployed at Hotel Renest and Pai Viceroy, situated near the Kapila Teertham circle, as well as the Sri Varadaraja Swamy temple. The e-mail threats again mentioned the alleged drug kingpin Jaffer Sadiq and the ISI.

In Vijayawada, Hotel Taj Vivanta received a bomb threat. Inspector S S S V Nagaraju said extensive searches at the hotel revealed it was a hoax threat.

Panic gripped Lucknow after nine prominent hotels received bomb threats demanding a ransom of ₹50 lakh on Sunday. The email, sent around 8.03 am, claimed that explosive devices had been planted in black bags across all the hotel premises. The sender warned that any attempt to defuse them would lead to mass casualties, prompting an emergency response.

The Lucknow police roped in the Cyber Cell to trace the origin of the email, while bomb disposal and dog squads were deployed to begin large-scale evacuations. The hotels mentioned in the threatening email are situated in tony areas of Lucknow, including Gomti Nagar, Hazratganj, Sarojininagar, Alambagh and Krishnanagar.

50% of inpatient pvt hosps in state don't adhere to fire safety rules

RAKSHITH GOWDA @Bengaluru

OUT of 4,787 inpatient private hospitals in the state, over 3,000 have been inspected by fire and emergency services personnel. Of them, over 50% are found to be lacking proper fire safety equipment and not adhering to fire safety standards.

After a recent fire incident at a private hospital in Bengaluru, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh held a meeting with health and senior fire department officials. Later, a circular was issued to hospitals to follow fire safety precautions, a senior officer from the fire department told *TNIE*. **P5**

Hurriyat eyeing a comeback in new Kashmir

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

AFTER remaining dormant for five years, Kashmir's separatist outfit Hurriyat Conference seems to have got a lease of life with the victory of National Conference early this month in the first Assembly polls since Article 370 was read down.

Since his release in September 2023 from five years of house arrest, Hurriyat Conference leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq's activities have been confined to addressing weekly Friday sermons at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar. But now he appears to have become very active, responding to the killing of migrant labourers by terrorists in Kashmir, commenting on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's talks at the BRICS meet in Russia, and trying to revive the Hurriyat by meeting other leaders of the group.

Mirwaiz broke the pattern in the run-up to the Assembly polls, making his first political speech from the pulpit of Jamia Masjid, saying elections are for sadak, bijli and paani (road, electricity, and water) and can't resolve the Kashmir issue.

On October 23, he met other Hurriyat leaders—his first meeting with them since August 5, 2019 when the Centre scrapped J&K's special status and bifurcated the erstwhile state into two UTs.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq

In a notable gesture, Mirwaiz condemned the killing of migrant workers at an under-construction site last week.

On October 25, Mirwaiz said he was ready to hold talks with the Centre. He tried to conflate Modi's message at the BRICS summit that dialogue and diplomacy are the means to settle conflicts and not war, with the Kashmir problem.

Mirwaiz's return to active politics suggests a strategic repositioning. The move appears aimed at reviving Hurriyat's relevance in J&K's fast-changing political environment.

The developments also imply a more inclusive approach by the government.

"Allowing meetings of Mirwaiz and his colleagues is an indication of a shift in the political environment in J&K," said J&K Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari.

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*Source: vivo India Impact Report 2023

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ALMANAC TODAY

Monday: 28.10.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana • Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Ashwayuja • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadasi 8.23 am • Nakshatra: Purvaphalguni 4.45 pm • Moon in Kanya Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am • Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER

MIN 18°C | MAX 28°C

FORECAST: Broken clouds

Sunrise 06.12 am | Sunset 05.54 pm | Moonrise 02.52 am | Moonset 03.23 pm

TURNING BLIND EYE

Building illegal, but BBMP babus allowed it, says complainant

Her repeated visits upset officials; AE spent one hour at violator's home: Neighbour

MOHAMMED YACOOB @Bengaluru

A WOMAN, to save her 15x20 sqft home from an illegal construction next to her house, had in 2022 approached the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike chief engineer, assistant executive engineer, assistant director of town planning (ADTP), BBMP and assistant engineer of town planning. The woman alleged that instead of taking action, the engineers helped the violator put up a six-storeyed multi-dwelling unit on Gosaiah Street in Akkithimmanahalli at Shanti Nagar, hardly a few hundred metres from the BBMP head office.

The complainant, Berta Albert Thomas, charged that when she filed the complaint, the ADTP also asked her to bring her husband or children to the office. With the recent building collapse at Babusapalya, the family is spending sleepless nights, she added.

"In 2022, I approached the BBMP engineers, but they kept ignoring me. In June 2024, I again met Zonal Commissioner Snehal R and on the same day, I approached ADTP Liaqhat and AE of Town Planning Suresh. The zonal commissioner gave false assurance of action, while ADTP got upset for repeatedly coming to his office and asked me to bring my husband or children to his office. AE Suresh came to the spot and instead of taking action, he spent over one hour at the violator's home. At that time, the building had about four floors. Because of the BBMP negligence, the owner added two more floors," she claimed and added that the illegal building has 16 units.

The woman alleged that ward AEE Savithri also deliberately ignored her complaint. Savithri was transferred to Shivajinagar from Shanthinagar in October.

In the first week of September, the complainant along with her family members barged into the BBMP office and told the officials that she would approach the Lokayukta. Soon after, BBMP officials issued a demolition notice to the owner of the illegal building under Section 356 (1) of BBMP Act. The complainant said, "Even now, they are delaying the demolition. It appears that they are giving time to the owner to obtain a court stay. I will approach the Lokayukta now."

When TNIE contacted Liaqhat, he said the BBMP will demolish the building and they have not decided the date.

Potholes, dust make it a bumpy ride for commuters

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

POTHOLE-ridden, uneven roads, unscientific speed breakers and roadside parking by commercial establishments are some of the multiple problems that galore Dr Vishnuvardhan Road in Bengaluru South. Frequent users highlighted that the pothole-ridden road has led to accidents, thus raising safety concerns for commuters.

Prakash, a resident of Banashankari 6th Stage, referring to the unscientific speed-breaker near Patalamma Temple on Dr Vishnuvardhan Road, said that at least three accidents occur every week, especially during the night. "The speedbreaker is uneven and unscientific. At night, it is hardly visible and people end up running over, thus leading to accidents."

Commuters pointed that the road is a crucial link between Mysuru Road and the Kanakapura Road. With residential layouts and commercial establishments mushrooming on either side of the road, hundreds use the road round the clock but the road is still pothole-ridden. "On the other hand, ongoing road extensions near the Kengeri entrance have worsened conditions, causing dust and posing another challenge to the already pothole-ridden road."

Commuters struggle on the dusty, pothole-ridden Dr Vishnuvardhan Road in Bengaluru South which connects Mysuru Road and Uttarahalli | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Further, they also criticised the arbitrary placement of speed-breakers and argued that they should be installed near school, college or main junctions. They added that there are unscientific potholes near Patalamma Temple, Mantri Alpyne and Pathway Hospital, urging authorities to evenly asphalt roads and install scientific speed. The recent rains have exacerbated the situation, with gravel wearing out, separating from the asphalt and accumulating on the sides of the road, thus increasing the risk of skidding for two-wheeler riders.

Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zonal Chief Engineer was not available for comments.

FIJI HONOURS SRI SRI WITH HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

Bengaluru: The Republic of Fiji has conferred its highest civilian honour on spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for "his dedication to uplifting the human spirit and fostering peace and unity among diverse communities". The title of 'Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji' was presented to him by Fiji President Ratu Wiliame M Katonivere, during the former's visit to the Pacific island nation.

This honour makes Fiji the sixth country to bestow its top civilian award upon Ravi Shankar, acknowledging his humanitarian work through The Art of Living, an organisation he founded 43 years ago. The Art of Living has been promoting happiness and harmony worldwide, with initiatives in mental health, education, environmental sustainability, women and youth empowerment, and stress relief and meditation programmes. While in Fiji, Ravi Shankar met key leaders and discussed the ways The Art of Living could contribute to the country's holistic development by empowering its youth, enhancing community mental health, and introducing Ayurvedic practices to promote wellbeing.

Institutions adapt to gig economy, provide certifications, online courses

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

AS the gig economy continues to grow, educational institutions in Bengaluru are adjusting their curricula to prepare students for this new job landscape. The gig economy refers to on-demand work that occurs through digital platforms, where labour is exchanged for payment on a task or short-term basis without formal contracts.

The gig economy connects individuals or companies with service providers through digital platforms, which has greatly increased the visibility of informal employment.

To address the demands of the gig economy, institutions are designing new short-term certifications and online courses, focusing on essential skills such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, digital marketing, and coding. These courses aim to move away from rote learning towards fostering critical thinking and hands-on experience.

Many institutions have also reached out to start-ups and tech companies for collaboration and provide students with real-world gig experiences and work on live projects that align with gig economy requirements.

Professor Sumod SD, Assistant Professor of Strategy and General Management at a private university highlighted that in response to the gig economy, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has also made certain revisions. The new curriculum framework emphasises flexibility and interdisciplinary learning, allowing students to transfer credits, participate in internships, and access diverse learning modes. Institutions are also introducing courses in AI, data analytics, digital marketing, and coding, focusing on skills that suit the gig economy's demands, he added.

Educational experts also point that with gig jobs valuing task expertise over traditional educational qualifications, there is a risk that short-term incomes might draw young people away from formal education.

Dr Tuhin Chattopadhyay, Professor, Digital Business and Analytics, at a private university highlighted that the institutions are also integrating online industry certifications into its curriculum, requiring students to complete these certifications before term assessments. "This initiative encourages continuous learning and keeps students updated with the latest trends and technologies in their fields," he added.

AGAINST ALL ODDS

Prathima, Shekar champions in wheelchair tennis

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

WINNERS of state-level wheelchair tennis, Prathima N Rao and Shekar Veeraswamy, have turned personal challenges into triumphs on the tennis court. The tournament was organised by the Karnataka Wheelchair Tennis Association on October 26 and 27 at Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) stadium, where more than 59 players participated.

After contracting polio at the age of three, Prathima now proudly holds 15 awards in wheelchair tennis. Shekar, who lost a leg in an accident, has become a wheelchair tennis champion, competing in the very sport he served as ball boy since he was 10 years old. Shekar was drawn to the stadium every morning by his love for sports and Cubbon Park. However, his life changed in 2009 when he lost his leg.

Prathima N Rao and Shekar Veeraswamy pose with their trophies at KSLTA stadium

For over a year, Shekar felt lost and isolated. "Life was confined to my room. I stopped eating, thinking that if nothing could change, why should I do anything?" However, his friends, who were members of Wheelchair Tennis Association, encouraged him to come and watch others play. Shekar decided to give wheelchair tennis a try in 2010, but failed terribly at first.

"I didn't know how to move the tennis racquet or wheelchair," Shekar recalled. "But tennis taught me to accept my failures and move on." By 2011, he had won both singles and doubles. In 2013, he earned a gold medal during selection trials in South Africa. In 2015, Shekar won two medals in Hyderabad, followed by another tournament in Thailand. He holds a world ranking of 246.

Women's singles winner Prathima N Rao was introduced to wheelchair tennis through a friend. After a polio attack at the age of three, Prathima was confined to a wheelchair. In 2011, she discovered KSLTA and began practicing every weekend.

Years later, Prathima has earned 15 awards across categories, representing Karnataka in national games and served as India's representative in tournaments in Malaysia and Bangkok.

Although her love for tennis came long before her actual involvement — she considered Leander Paes and Sania Mirza her idols — Prathima initially tried her hand at archery and athletics. However, she soon realised that tennis was her true calling. She ranks number 2 in wheelchair tennis in India.

EXPRESS READ

JAC urges Minister to clear salary arrears

Bengaluru: The Joint Action Committee of RTC trade unions urged Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy to address the pending salary arrears of employees. In a letter to Reddy, dated October 26, the JAC reminded the Minister of their meeting on October 9, during which he promised to convene a follow-up discussion within 15 days to address various demands had not been held. Some of their major demands include clearing of the 38 month pending salary arrears of the employees from January 2020 to February 2023 and settlement of retirement dues totalling Rs 226 crore for employees from the four bus corporation, as promised by the Minister before November 30. Besides, the JAC sought improvement in medical facilities and timely issuance of inter-corporation transfer orders.

1,315 nursing seats added, special counselling today

Bengaluru: In a move to expand nursing education, the state government has sanctioned 37 new nursing colleges, adding a total of 1,315 seats. To allocate these seats, the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) will conduct a special round of counselling starting today, October 28. Candidates interested in these seats can register their preferences from October 28 until noon on October 29. Results will be announced at 6pm the same day, said KEA Executive Director H Prasanna. Students allotted seats must report to their respective colleges by October 30.

Breast cancer awareness walk held

Bengaluru: To emphasise the importance of early detection and comprehensive cancer care, Sri Shankara Cancer Foundation organised a Breast Cancer Awareness Walk on Sunday. Starting from Lalbagh West Gate, over 600 people participated in their fight against breast cancer. The event aimed to educate the public about early detection, treatment options, and resources for those affected by breast cancer. In a moving display, participants formed a human chain shaped like a pink ribbon to express support for patients and families. Doctors and experts shared valuable insights on breast cancer risk reduction, early detection, and treatment options through engaging games and discussions.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

28TH October: Capricorn is my sign of the day. We know this region of the zodiac as supremely practical, but it was not always so. In ancient times the Capricornian Goat was pictured dangling its tail in water, symbolising deep emotion and hidden feelings. Capricornian people are not to be underestimated!

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
You're not renowned for your patience, and it doesn't take much to push you to breaking point. However, if you take evasive action at the beginning of the week, you'll avert a struggle at the end. I know you're happiest when everyone is getting on fine, so make it happen!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Anything that was settled or agreed recently should be binding and there doesn't seem to be much that can be added to existing conditions. However, you're sure to face one or two differences of opinion later on, partly as a result of your own need to assert your independence.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Venus' impact on your sign goes through a subtle shift, and you have a few days left to complete emotional arrangements. If other people have anything to say on the matter, you will soon receive a marvellous invitation. I have a feeling you'll be surprised!

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You know that Cancer is a water sign and therefore highly emotional. This week, though, it's the intellectuals who will be making the running, so you may be wise to keep quiet and save your ideas for later. Watch out when you're with friends - or you'll be left holding the bill!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
It's not clear whether it's you or a partner who needs more freedom, but one way or the other a commitment has to be altered. Some of you may be inclined to call it a day. You may consider it more sensible, though, to hang on for a while and see the way the land lies.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Venus has certainly been providing brilliant conditions for professional aspirations. All of you born under the sign of the Virgin have discovered that who you know is much more important than what you know. You have also learnt that charm has many uses.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Professional and worldly ambitions some times seem so simple compared with family and domestic pressures. The comparison is largely an illusion. If you take an impartial look, you'll see just how well you're doing on all fronts. And you really don't have to take sides when friends fall out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Everything that takes place over the next two weeks pales into insignificance when you consider what is possible. If you're ready to go all out for a major ambition again, light the blue touch paper and retire! Please don't let fussy friends wind you up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Mars is always a planet to watch in your personal affairs, mainly because it has such a powerful influence on your general energy level. Although this celestial body is now urging you on to more and more hard work, financial rewards will not lag far behind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
There is no knowing what others are scheming at the moment, but I think you can rely on partners' integrity and sincerity to see that whatever is done is completed in line with the very best of motives. Just make sure that you don't have to pay for everyone else!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You have come to terms with emotional upsets, yet there is still a lingering sense that a wrong has yet to be righted. Although you may now speak your mind, this may not mean that a rift is mended just yet. There may still be some way to go before you're in the clear.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
You should enjoy yourself this week, as long, that is, as you are able to put certain cares and worries behind you. Be a typical Piscean and separate yourself from unwanted obligations. It's amazing how easy you'll find it to make yourself invisible!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle ⬇

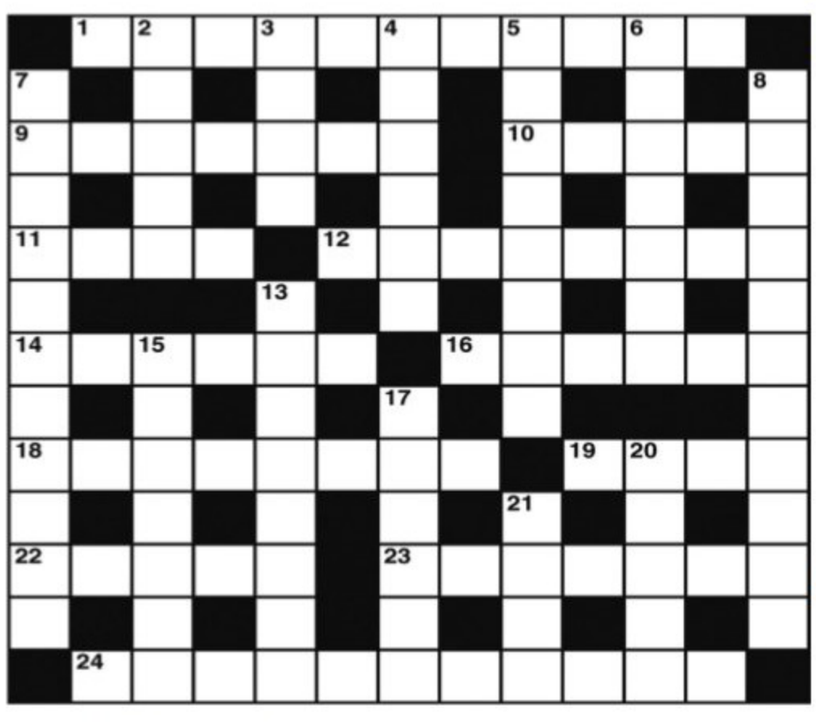
		3	1			4		2
7		1		6				5
					3	7		6
4	1	8	7	3				9
	6						4	
9				8	4	5	7	1
2		9	4					
3				9		1		4
1		4			6	9		

3	9	7	8	2	6	1	4	5
8	2	4	1	5	7	9	6	3
6	1	5	4	9	3	8	7	2
7	3	1	2	4	9	5	8	6
5	8	9	6	7	1	3	2	4
4	6	2	3	8	5	7	9	1
9	4	6	5	3	8	2	1	7
2	7	3	9	1	4	6	5	8
1	5	8	7	6	2	4	3	9

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 What it takes to make a sewer work well? (11)
9 Under cover donors I changed (7)
10 Broad road lacking a place to meet (5)
11 High spots of a European tour (4)
12 Abandoned flapper in an extreme position (4,4)
14 One who may thrive on complaints (6)
16 It is weighed by a craftsman (6)
18 More than father I had been unduly rewarded (8)
19 Broken oar left for examination (4)
22 In no mood to enjoy life I reckon (5)
23 Bizarre form of basic heating (7)
24 Sounds like narrow waters but don't be confused (3,8)

DOWN

2 Finally attain a high position (3,2)
3 Damn peculiar mood (4)
4 Chop tree as festival season arrives (6)
5 Hot-rod driving is completely absorbing (8)
6 Sounds the end of a language (7)
7 Ordering a drink and noticing its ingredients (3,3,5)
8 He holds a record in business (6,5)
13 It's soothing when you have to concentrate (8)
15 Box me up inside and dispose of the body (7)
17 Deal leads to doctor being held in row (6)
20 Point out affluent German kingdom (5)
21 Mail sorted for West African country (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Altair, 4 Effusive, 9 Talent, 10 Escaping, 12 Rage, 13 Scrap, 14 Bent, 17 Shareholders, 20 Jumps on board, 23 Opal, 24 Minsk, 25 Isle, 28 Sunlight, 29 Bireme, 30 Landlady, 31 Closet.

Down: 1 Asterisk, 2 Telegram, 3 Inns, 5 Fast and loose, 6 Upas, 7 Irises, 8 Eights, 11 Accomplished, 15 Beaux, 16 Bribe, 18 Hamsters, 19 Adherent, 21 Consul, 22 Cannon, 26 Will, 27 Till.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

RBBUL

HIWEN

YLAAGX

PONAYC

Everything is looking good, but you have some work ahead of you.
We were hoping to get our last vacation in before the baby came.
It's going to be a very long weekend.
SHE WAS UNEXPECTEDLY GIVING BIRTH ON A TRIP AND SPENT THE DAY ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DROLL NIFTY ANYHOW OUTAGE
Answer: The Model T cost $290 in 1924, which made it an automobile that people could — "A-FORD" TO OWN

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

"ಸಿರಿಗನ್ನಡಂ ಗೆಲ್ಗೆ - ಸಿರಿಗನ್ನಡಂ ಬಾಳ್ಗೆ"

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ ಕೆ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು
ಜಲಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಚಿವರು

ನಾಡಿನ ಸಮಸ್ತ ಜನತೆಗೆ

೬೯ನೇ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

**ಕರುನಾಡಿನ ನೆಲ, ಜಲ, ಭಾಷೆ, ಕಲೆ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ,
ಪರಂಪರೆಯ ಪ್ರತೀಕ. ನಮ್ಮ ಗೌರವ, ಸ್ವಾಭಿಮಾನದ ಸಂಕೇತ**

೬೯ನೇ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವದ ಈ ಶುಭ ಸಂದರ್ಭದಲ್ಲಿ ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ಒಂದರಂದು ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಆಚರಿಸುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯುವ ಪೀಳಿಗೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಇತಿಹಾಸ, ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ, ಕಲೆ, ಭಾಷೆ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಅರಿವು ಮೂಡಿಸುವುದು ನಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರ ಆದ್ಯ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯವಾಗಿದೆ.

ಏಕೀಕೃತ ರಾಜ್ಯವಾಗಿ ನವೆಂಬರ್ ೧, ೧೯೭೩ ರಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯವೆಂದು ಮರುನಾಮಕರಣಗೊಂಡು ೫೧ ವರ್ಷ ಪೂರ್ಣಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಹಿನ್ನಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂಗಡಿ ಮುಂಗಟ್ಟುಗಳ, ಬಹು ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಹಾಗೂ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ಉದ್ದಿಮೆ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಬಾವುಟವನ್ನು ಸೂಕ್ತ ರೀತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಿಸುವುದರ ಜೊತೆಗೆ ಕನ್ನಡ ರಾಜ್ಯೋತ್ಸವವನ್ನು ಅರ್ಥಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಆಚರಿಸುವುದರ ಮೂಲಕ ಕನ್ನಡದ ಕಂಪನ್ನು ಎಲ್ಲೆಡೆ ಪಸರಿಸಲು ತಮ್ಮೆಲ್ಲರಲ್ಲೂ ಮನವಿ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೇವೆ.

: ಜೈ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ :

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Social Welfare Department

Scholarship and Prize Money Drive for Educational Development of Scheduled Caste Students

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

I. Scholarship Programme

For the Academic Year 2024-25, portals are opened for both Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship Schemes for the Scheduled Caste Students. Students can log on to the following portals for application. Annual Family Income Limit for 1-8th Standard is Rs. 6 lakh and for 9-10th Standard Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, is Rs. 2.5 Lakh.

Website details:

htpps://ssp/postmatric.karnataka.gov.in

From the current year, it is mandatory to undergo Biometric Authentication process for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 9-10th Pre Matric Scholarship and Post matric Scholarship Schemes. **After successful submission of scholarship applications under respective schemes, the concerned student should visit nearby EDCS citizen Service Centres like Grama one, Karnataka One, Bangalore One or Concerned Taluk Social Welfare office along with his/her SSP Id and AADHAR Number for undergoing Biometric Authentication. The said activity is free of cost and students need not pay any user charges.**

II. SSLC Prize Money

Online applications are invited from the Scheduled Caste Students who have passed the SSLC examination with First Class in First attempt only. There is no income limit to avail this benefit.

III. Post Matric Prize Money

Online applications are invited from the Scheduled Caste Students who have passed the PUC and above courses with First Class in First attempt only. There is no income limit to avail this benefit.

Students can apply for the Prize money Schemes through the following link

htpps://swdservices.karnataka.gov.in/PrizeMoneyClientApp/register

Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, interacting with students.

IV. AADHAR Seeding

For all the Scholarship and Prize Money Schemes, it is mandatory for the Student to seed his Bank account with active aadhar number to avail the scheme benefits. Hence, all those who have not seeded their bank account with AADHAR number have been requested to complete the process within 10 days to avail the benefit under the Scheme.

V. Steps to be taken by the student:

a. Student has to visit nearby AADHAR Seva Kendra and to confirm the status of his aadhar. If not active, the student has to submit request to get it activated.

b. Those who have not seeded their aadhar number with bank accounts, should immeidtely visit the Bank in which they have Bank account and submit application for aadhar seeding. Alternatively, they can also visit nearest Post Office and open Digital Bank Account through IPPB for quick seeding of AADHAR.

c. Those SC Studying in 9th and 10th Standard and all Post-Matric courses and who have applied for Post matric Scholarship should visit the nearest Gram One / Karnataka one / Bangalore one centres for Biometric Authentication

d. Students can verify their aadhar seeding status by logging into DBT Karnataka Android mobile application

For further information contact the District and Taluk Offices of the Social Welfare Department.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Department Helpline: 9482300400

@swd.gok

Commissioner
Social Welfare Department

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who seems to be in a Catch-22 situation with regards to the implementation of classification of the SC quota and the release of the caste census, is likely to discuss the two contentious issues informally in Monday's cabinet meeting

'CASTE A REALITY IN INDIA, SUCH SURVEYS NEEDED TILL WE ATTAIN EQUALITY'

ON one side, the Karnataka government is coming under pressure to implement the socio-economic and educational survey, while on the other, there is strong opposition to it. The 'caste census', as it is known, is on the boil after former Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes (KSCBC) chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde submitted the report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in February this year, just before the Lok Sabha dates were announced. The report was earlier compiled and submitted by **H Kantharaj**, who had served as KSCBC chairman for three years, during which the survey was conducted. An apprehensive Kantharaj told *The New Indian Express* that all efforts were made to draw up the report without any discrimination or lapse.

How did you go about the caste survey?
In 2014, I was appointed chairman of the Karnataka Backward Class Commission. By the time I joined, preliminary work was done. It was a long procedure and we examined all previous survey reports. The State government wanted the survey to cover the entire population. The survey was conducted door-to-door, and there were 55 questions to be answered to determine backwardness, and caste was one of them. Till date, in Karnataka, there is no official caste list prepared. To include castes that might have been missed out, we invited people to make a representation, and got many representations. We have not included a single caste on our own.

Why is caste one of the factors for the survey ?
We are living in the 21st century and one might wonder why caste is being included. The Supreme Court has clearly said that any survey or census should not be based solely on caste. In many of its judgments, the apex court has said that caste should be one of the factors to ascertain backwardness. Of the 55 questions in our survey, one question was related to caste and the rest were on jobs, sanitation, place of residence, type of house, landholding etc. Caste is a reality in India and nobody can deny it. Though the Constitution says India should be a casteless society, we haven't reached there yet.

Did you see backwardness among forward castes in your survey, and what is the percentage?
Yes, but I cannot disclose. There are poor people in all castes. This survey has touched entire sections of Karnataka, including forward and backward class people.

The survey was completed in 2015, will it not be outdated now?
It will stand even now. In one judgment, the Supreme Court said the report has to be considered within ten years. It is relevant even now.

Why do we need such surveys to be conducted in India or Karnataka?
This kind of census was conducted from 1872 to 1931, where details of caste were included. After 1931, the census did not have a caste aspect, and we don't know the reason why it was discontinued. We need such surveys. If it had continued even after 1931, we might not need to conduct this kind of survey now. The goal of the Constitution, including the preamble, gives preference for social, economic and political justice. Article 14 says there is equality before law and this kind of survey is needed till equality is attained in society.

Why is caste census required?
Caste factor makes all the difference. Castes might have become an occupation and vice-versa. We can ascertain backwardness based on occupation, and in order to achieve social justice, this type of survey is required by both state and central governments. The government set up the commission in Karnataka as it is committed to social justice. Bihar spent Rs 500 crore on it, since it's a big state. Even the government of India is going to take up the census in the near future, including the caste column. If it does, it will help all states. There is no need for states to go ahead with their own surveys.

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

EXPRESS Dialogues

When did you try to submit the caste census report?
We could not submit it directly to the government as suddenly there was an order to leave the commission. We handed over the report to the member secretary, an IAS officer, and asked him to submit it to the government in 2019.

Everything is done, people are keen to know about it, but why has the government not released the caste census in public domain?
The government has to accept the report and cannot reject it. If it rejects, it should give cogent reasons. We have done the duty entrusted to us, it is up to the government to take action. But I am happy the government assured me it would publish the report and implement it.

Is it true you approached HD Kumaraswamy to submit the report when he was CM?
We made an attempt but could not get an appointment officially. Once when I met him, we discussed the features of the report for which he (Kumaraswamy) said he would call me again after discussing it with the officials concerned. But I did not receive any call from him.

There was also talk of the report going missing....
It surprised me. I went to the commission and met then chairman K Jayaprakash Hegde and inquired with him, for which he clarified it was not missing.

What percentage of the total population is covered in the caste census?
In rural areas, 98-99 per cent of the population is covered, whereas in urban areas, around 87 per cent is covered.

Can it be taken as empirical data to classify quota?
Yes. We prepared 55 questions to enable us to ascertain the backwardness, social condition and social backwardness of people. Our Constitution provides specifically to identify persons who are socially and educationally backward. Details were collected to give welfare programmes.

What do you say about leakage of the report?
I deny it, there was no leakage of the report.

How accurate is the socio-economic information gathered?
During the survey, when we visited a house, we got answers to 55 questions. We took the signature of the person who provided the information. They can also cross-check the details entered by enumerators, who will also sign it. To ensure that information is entered properly, a supervisor also looks at it and puts his signature.

What is the percentage of unlettered people in the state?
In Karnataka, it was around 24 per cent 10 years ago, which is a very high number.

Are they scattered in different places?
They are scattered in different areas. Many people in villages have not even seen schools. It has improved now, but the fact remains that even now there are illiterate people who don't know how to read and write.

Why did it take so many years to complete the survey and submit it to the government?
We collected all the information in just 40 days, with 1.22 lakh enumerators and supervisors. Each enumerator was assigned about 120 houses. But it was a huge task to compile and analyse the data. The analysis was entrusted to Bharat Electronics Ltd and they did it using software. Also, after data collection and preparation of the report, we approached the Indian Institute of Management to give its opinion on the genuineness of the survey and figures available.

There is a lot of criticism, especially from dominant communities, that the survey is unscientific and done in a hurry. They have petitioned the CM that it will have long-term implications for their communities. What is your message to them?
First, we must know what is scientific and unscientific. How do you know it's unscientific when the government has not published it? After publication, they should study the report and then offer their comments.

Wouldn't it be ideal for the government to put it in public domain?
The report is an asset of the government. They have to discuss it in the cabinet and assembly and then publish it.

The report has become a subject of political debate. Does it bother you?
I can't say it doesn't bother me. All I can say is I will be very happy if it is implemented and its benefits reach the people.

What could be the reason for so much opposition to a report nobody has seen?
I don't know. Even while conducting the survey, there were objections. It is because generally, people think that whenever such a commission is set up, it is only for the purpose of reservation. However, many people responded that their caste should be mentioned in the report. The caste survey is important because suppose a person, whose caste is not mentioned anywhere, goes to a tahsildar. How will the tahsildar know whether he belongs to a caste which comes under reservation, and whether to include his name in the reservation list? There are many castes in the state which are excluded from reservation.

Is economic backwardness linked to social backwardness?
Social backwardness automatically tells that one is economically backward. Even in the Constitution, the words are clearly used "who are socially and educationally backward", not economically backward. Even the Supreme Court has said any reservation solely based on economic criteria is unconstitutional. It should go with social and educational backwardness.

Some people may hide their economic background to show they are socially backward.
We asked if they have bank accounts. The report details how many people have bank accounts and ration cards.

What about bank and digital payments?
There are so many even today who have no bank accounts. A person has a bank account when he has a definite income. When there is no money to deposit in the bank, what is the need to open a bank account? Even today, there are people in the country and state who don't have a definite income.

A person who is from a backward class, but has a good foreign education, runs educational institutions and has good income, will still be included in backward class?
There are some norms. If a person is educationally backward, but has money and property, we call him backward. The SC has also said there must be political reservation. Till 2010, there was general reservation in political reservation. In the 2010 Krishnamurthy case, the SC made it very clear that the criteria for social and political backwardness are different. For that purpose, the Karnataka government appointed the Bhaktavatsala Commission in 2010.

The Constitution speaks of having a casteless society and the preamble also gives equality to all. But doesn't such a census set a precedence for more? There is caste in politics, job, education... how long will it take to come out of it?
The Constitution is supreme. Everyone should first know it before implementing it. If the Constitution is implemented as of today, I don't think we will reach a stage of equality. Some more things may be required, and the Constitution provides for it too. Any law in India should be within the frame of the Constitution, which is known for social justice and is also called a social document. It's a living document, and is not rigid. As long as discrimination continues, caste will continue.

There are apprehensions that the report is unfounded and has not done justice to any person or community.
I don't say I am perfect. We have made all efforts, without any discrimination or lapse in our functioning. We have done our best. My conscience tells me we have made sincere efforts to do the best for the job entrusted to us.

NOV 13 BYPOLL

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy and his family offer prayers at Hasanamba temple in Hassan on Sunday | EXPRESS

Bypolls will be beginning of end for Cong: HDK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Hassan

PREDICTING political polarisation after the Channapatna bypoll, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said the election results will pave the way for the decline of Congress in the state.

After visiting the Hasanamba temple here with his wife Anitha, daughter-in-law and grandson, the JDS state president said he is confident that his son Nikhil will win the Channapatna constituency as the party has a strong base there. "Nikhil also has public sympathy as he was defeated in two previous elections due to the conspiracy of Congress leaders. He will taste victory against the best efforts of Congress," he said.

Coming down heavily on Congress Channapatna candidate CP Yogeshwara for making "false statements" against coalition partners JDS and BJP, he said, "Why did Yogeshwara refuse to contest as the NDA candidate though the top brass decided to give him the B-form?"

Claiming that he is not getting the support of the state government in his bid to revive sick industries, Kumaraswamy said it will become difficult to set up new major industries in the state if the government does not shed this attitude.

Reddy, Sriramulu campaign shot in arm for BJP

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @Ballari

ESTRANGED friends MLA Gali Janardhan Reddy and former minister B Sriramulu came together to campaign for the BJP candidate in the Sandur bypoll on Sunday, sending party leaders and workers into a tizzy. Sriramulu had been missing in action after the party announced Bangaru Hanumatha as its Sandur candidate, but has joined the intense campaigning now, to ensure Bandaru's victory.

Once close friends, Reddy and Sriramulu had parted ways after Reddy formed the Kalyana Rajya Pragati Paksha (KRPP). Recently, KRPP merged with BJP. Once a BJP strongman and a mining baron, Redy recently also got a respite from the Supreme Court, which allowed him to return to Ballari after 14 long years. His return to the party and district has given an enormous boost to the district BJP.

MLA Janardhan Reddy and former minister B Sriramulu participate in election campaigning in Sandur on Sunday | EXPRESS

Reddy said, "I and Sriramulu are good friends. A few days ago, he had said he would join the campaign after the nomination was filed. In the last two days, we both have been visiting villages in Sandur taluk for campaigning. Our main aim is to win the bypoll and create history."

Sriramulu said, "Along with my friend Reddy, we will take part in campaigning every day and make sure that BJP wins the bypoll."

Nikhil prepares ground for Gowda's entry

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

NDA candidate for the Channapatna bypoll Nikhil Kumaraswamy on Sunday prepared the ground for his grandfather, former PM HD Deve Gowda, to hit the campaign trail by highlighting the contributions of the latter in the Vokkaliga heartland.

"If not for Deve Gowda implementing the Iggaluru dam, imagine what would have been the irrigation situation of Channapatna? Elderly farmers still remember his contributions and also his padayatra to Bengaluru from Channapatna when a farmer, Krishne Gowda, died in police shooting during the struggle for water," Nikhil said during a roadshow.

He drove home the point that the Gowda family has a close bond with Channapatna.

"My father and grandfather taught me how to behave in public life. I was not ready to contest the bypoll having lost two elections, but was forced to do so as the interests of the party came first. We had offered C P Yogeshwara (Congress candidate from Channapatna) the JDS and also the BJP ticket, but he rejected them," he said.

NDA candidate Nikhil Kumaraswamy campaigns in Channapatna on Sunday

He claimed that Congress, despite being the alliance partner with JDS during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, conspired and defeated him in Mandya and Deve Gowda in Tumakuru. "If DK Suresh won the Bengaluru Rural LS polls then, it was because of the contribution of JDS workers," he said.

Throughout his roadshow, which he launched at Makali village, he received a rousing welcome as he covered 15 villages.

CM: WASN'T NIKHIL ABHIMANYU AFTER MANDYA, RAMANAGARA?

Bengaluru: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit back at Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy for stating that his son Nikhil will not become Abhimanyu, but will emerge victorious as Arjuna in the Channapatna bypoll. "Wasn't he (Nikhil) Abhimanyu when he lost the Mandya Lok Sabha polls in 2019, that too when Kumaraswamy was chief minister, and also when he lost the Ramanagara Assembly polls in 2023," the CM said. Nikhil, who is taking on Congress' C P Yogeshwara, responded that the Congress has laid a 'Chakravyuha', as it did in Mandya and Ramanagara, but he will overcome it this time. **ENS**

Cong sends squads of 'spies' to find moles

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE ruling Congress is not leaving anything to chance in the November 13 bypolls to Channapatna, Shiggaon and Sandur, and has despatched squads to the three Assembly constituencies to sniff out moles, if any, in the party.

AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala held a virtual meeting on Sunday with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM DK Shivakumar and 100 other key leaders.

Each constituency will be under the close watch of two five-member teams of "ground spies" that will report to the CM, DCM and Surjewala, providing grassroots inputs on leaders on the ground working for party candidates. The team's special mandate is to find out if any Congress leaders are hand in glove with rival leaders.

Waqf row: MB Patil slams BJP, but admits to errors

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Vijayapura

ACCUSING BJP leaders of spreading canards in the name of Waqf properties only to gain political mileage, District incharge and Industries Minister MB Patil on Sunday reiterated that the Waqf Board has not acquired farmers' land in Honawad village of Tikota taluk.

He told reporters that BJP leaders are misleading people by giving false and unsubstantiated information on Waqf properties. "BJP leaders are claiming that the government is acquiring land of Hindus and getting it registered as Waqf properties in Vijayapura district. Leave alone acquiring land, the board has not even issued any notice to any farmer in Tikota taluk or Honawad village," he said.

On the allegations made by BJP leaders like MP Tejasvi Surya and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal that the properties of Hindus have been included in Waqf properties, Patil said, "The original owners of Waqf properties are Muslims. But due to the delay in updating notified properties in the Revenue Department by the Waqf Board, some 30 per cent Muslims have sold their properties to Hindus. This has happened in the past, not today."

He also said that while notifying Waqf properties in 1974, the board had committed a mistake by wrongly including Honawad in the survey. However, in 1977, the board corrected the mistake, he claimed by displaying the government record on that.

Minister MB Patil addresses media persons in Vijayapura on Sunday

Denying that Honawad village has over 1,500 acres of land belonging to Waqf, Patil said that the village has only 10.29 acre Waqf land.

He claimed that of the total 14,201 acre notified property by the Waqf Board in Vijayapura district, some 12,083 acre is under dispute after the land was either given under the Land Reforms Act or Inams Abolition Act in the past.

"Now, the challenge before the government is to find a solution to this disputed 14,201 acre of land. Since it is a tricky issue, we will seek legal opinion," he said.

The minister also said that a task force comprising the DC, tahsildars and assistant commissioners will be constituted to find out the land documents of the district between 1964 and 1974 to ascertain which land belongs to Waqf and which is owned by individuals. He also denied Yatnal's allegations that Waqf Tribunal has only Muslim officials and judges.

BJP team to visit Vijayapura, meet farmers

Bengaluru: The Karnataka BJP has formed a five-member team, headed by MP and former deputy CM Govind Karjol, to study the allegations that land of farmers were being acquired by the Waqf Board. Constituted by party state president BY Vijayendra, the team will visit Vijayapura on Tuesday. BJP MLAs Harish Poonja, Mahesh Tenginakayi, former MLC Arun Shahpur and BJP Raitha Morcha Secretary Kalmurudappa will interact with farmers and submit a report to the party. **ENS**

The CCB found several private videos of politicians and other individuals on the mobile phones recovered from Manjula Patil, the president of the Nalapad Brigade's Kalaburagi unit, and her husband Shivraj Patil, who were arrested. The couple attempted to extort Rs 20 lakh from Congress leader Malikayya Guttedar

At massive rally, Vijay bashes DMK

Calls out 'anti-people' govt, says his party TVK based on secular, social justice ideology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

ADDRESSING his maiden political public meeting, actor-turned-politician Vijay minced no words in taking on both the BJP and the ruling DMK — without directly naming them — at the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's (TVK) first state conference in Vikravandi on Sunday. In his 46-minute speech, Vijay eschewed the traditions of Tamil political oratory and employed a youth-friendly mix of Tamil and English to outline his party's political ideology and goals.

Identifying those destroying the country through divisive politics as his ideological opponents (BJP), he said those exploiting the people by using terms like 'Dravidian model governance' while using icons such as Periyar and Anna for their personal gains are his political opponents.

"We can spot divisive forces easily — they're like a rogue elephant. But corrupt forces are harder to identify as they wear a mask and put on a garb of 'ideology'. These corruption-ridden impostors are the ones ruling us now," he said.

Referring to the DMK's frequent description of the Prime Minister Modi government as fascist, Vijay asked, "If they are fascists, then what are you? Calling an anti-people government a 'Dravidian model government' is just another way of deceiving people. Painting those who oppose you with some colour or the other will not work, because our doctrine is that everyone is equal by birth. Do I need to spell out who this doctrine opposes?"

Speaking to a rapt audience of around 5-6 lakh people from within and outside the state, Vijay said Dravidian thought and Tamil nationalism would be the two eyes of the party. TVK will operate on secular principles, Vijay said, underscoring women's development, dissemination of a rational attitude, two-language policy, state autonomy, preservation of natural resources, development sensitive to climate change and an addiction-free Tamil Nadu, among others, as the party's goals. Notably, the controversial 'proportional reservation' also found a place among these goals.

Actor-turned-politician Vijay waves to his supporters, as he prepares to address his party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam's maiden public meeting in Vikravandi on Sunday | PTI

Vijay's KGF fans

KOLAR: As many as 200 fans of actor-turned-politician Vijay from the KGF region arrived in private cars and public transport to attend his first political conference on Sunday in Vikravandi. He enjoys a good fan base in KGF, Bangarpet, Malur and surrounding villages.

IN JUST 18 DAYS

INTER-STATE MURDER SOLVED BY KODAGU COPS, 3 ARRESTED

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Madikeri

THE Kodagu police have cracked a sensational murder and arrested three accused for the murder of a Hyderabad man, whose burnt body was found at a private estate in Suntikoppa in Kodagu on October 8.

While the murder took place in Hyderabad, the victim's body was found in Suntikoppa. The police, who had got several clues from the crime spot, succeeded in solving the case within 18 days of the incident.

The body of an unidentified man was found at the estate on October 8. SP K Ramarajan, who visited the spot, had said they had got several clues from the spot. He had formed a special investigation team to solve the case.

The arrested have been identified as Niharika P (29), who hailed from Telangana and a resident of Bengaluru, her boyfriend Ankur Rana (30) of Haryana and Nikhil Maireddy (28) of Bengaluru. The victim was Ramesh Kumar (54) of Hyderabad. Police sources said Niharika was the second wife of Ramesh. She planned the murder along with her boyfriend Ankur to get properties worth Rs 8 crore of her husband, they revealed.

(From left) Niharika, Nikhil, and Ankur

On October 1, Niharika asked Ankur to reach Hyderabad from Haryana. On October 3, she asked Ramesh to pick her up from Uppal-Bhyvanagiri on NH-163 in Hyderabad. But she was joined by Ankur and they both allegedly murdered Ramesh. They then shifted the body to Bengaluru. Later, Niharika's other friend Nikhil helped her dispose of the body. Nikhil allegedly took the body to Suntikoppa, where Ramesh's burnt body was found in the estate.

The first big breakthrough came with the arrest of Niharika and Nikhil on October 22. The police later arrested Ankur from Uttar Pradesh on October 25. The car, mobile phones and other items used in the crime have been seized by the police.

Muddu Madeva, inspector, Somwarpet police station, was the special investigator. The investigation is continuing further. SP Ramarajan told the media on Saturday that the case was challenging as it was hard to establish the identity of the victim. However, after collecting information of missing persons from neighbouring districts and states, the body was identified as that of Ramesh. During the investigation, footage from over 500 CCTV cameras were checked.

CHURCH BLASTS

Terrorism charges against Dominic Martin dropped

TOBY ANTONY @Kochi

IN a surprising development, the police have dropped terrorism charges against **Dominic Martin**, the sole accused in last year's blasts during a Jehovah's Witnesses convention in Kalamassery that left eight dead and 45 others severely injured.

As the first anniversary of the twin explosions at Zamra Convention Centre falls on Tuesday, *TNIE* has learnt that the charges under the UAPA against Martin were dropped after the state refused to prosecute him under the Act.

Sources in the police headquarters said though the investigation team had completed all the procedures for prosecuting Martin under UAPA, the state government refused sanction.

"The paperwork was completed, and the police had submitted the documents to the UAPA committee. After the committee reviewed it, the state government decided not to grant prosecution sanction under UAPA in the case. The sanction was denied due to the stand of Left parties against UAPA," said a source. "After the police filed the chargesheet at the Ernakulam District Principal Sessions Court in April this year, the case was transferred to the Kalamassery magistrate court for committal proceedings. Now, Martin will face trial for offences under various sections of the IPC and the Explosives Act," the source said.

Two motorists enter BMTC bus, assault driver, conductor

Bengaluru: Two motorists attacked the conductor and driver of a bus attached to the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, in an alleged road rage incident, on Saturday evening. The incident occurred near the Canara Bank bus stop on Tannery Road. The DJ Halli police have registered a case. The injured have been identified as Gagan, a driver on contract, and Shivakumar, the conductor of a BMTC bus from depot no. 30. According to a statement from the BMTC, around 5.30 pm on Saturday, a BMTC bus operating from Yelahanka to Shivajinagar Bus Station was making a routine stop at the Canara Bank bus stop to allow passengers to alight. At this moment, two individuals, who came on a two-wheeler, entered the bus through the front door. Without any provocation, they began to verbally abuse and physically assault the driver, Gagan. In an attempt to defuse the situation, Shivakumar intervened and questioned the actions of the assailants. However, the attackers redirected their aggression towards him, dragging him out of the bus and physically assaulting him on the street, the statement said. Both the driver and the conductor sustained injuries during the assault and were immediately taken to Bowring Hospital for treatment. The police added that the incident was captured by CCTV cameras in the vicinity, and their footage is being analysed. The accused, meanwhile, remain at large. While it is speculated that the assault was a result of a road rage incident, the exact reason for the same is being probed. **ENS**

LINGAYAT GROUP LAUNCHES BOOK TO COUNTER 'VACHANA DARSHANA'

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

IN a counter to the controversial Vachana Darshana, Lingayat groups have launched Vachana Nija Darshana, penned by Vachana scholar Dr Meenakshi Bali, to address what they call the "distortions and omissions" in the original work. Dr Bali's book has quickly gained traction among Basava and Lingayat supporters, fuelling a spirited ideological battle.

The Vachana Darshana camp, backed by right-wing supporters, recently stirred the debate further by announcing an essay contest with prize money, which was swiftly countered by the Jagathika Lingayat Mahasabha and pro-Basava groups with their own essay competition. Both sides claim these initiatives aim to promote discussion.

At the Vachana Nija Darshana launch, recently organized by the All-India Sharana Sahitya Parishat in Kalaburagi, Aland MLA BR Patil refuted claims that the Vachanas were merely an extension of the Vedas and Upanishads. He emphasized that Basavanna, revered for his revolutionary social reforms, opposed these texts.

Author Dr Bali went a step further, stating, "This is just the first rebuttal to the 'misleading' Vachana Darshana, with more responses on the way." The book will be released in other parts of Karnataka soon, including Bengaluru, she told *The New Indian Express*.

Asked if she had thoroughly examined Vachana Darshana, Bali confirmed, "I have read it carefully, page by page, to prepare a comprehensive critique that challenges its misrepresentation of Basavanna's ideology and the Sharana movement."

She explained that her 60-page book is written in straightforward language to make it easily understandable, revealing what she calls the "disturbing agenda" behind Vachana Darshana.

'Defied hierarchies'

Bali minced no words in rejecting the notion that Basavanna conformed to traditional caste system values, asserting, "Basavanna did not conform — he defied caste hierarchies and inequality, was critical of the oppressive systems of the time, promoting experiential wisdom instead."

This comes in the backdrop of the film 'Sharanara Shakti' which was also criticised by pro-Basava and Lingayat groups for depicting the Sharanas and social reformer Basavanna in a careless and erroneous manner.

TEJASVI SURYA COMPLETES IRONMAN ENDURANCE RACE IN GOA

BENGALURU: Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya successfully completed the Ironman 70.3 endurance race held in Goa recently. Surya finished the competition, which included a 1,900-metre swim, a 90-kilometre cycle ride and a 21.1-kilometer run, in 8 hours, 27 minutes and 32 seconds. He dedicated his achievement to the athletes and sportspersons of the country. He expressed his pride in participating in such a prestigious event, which attracts athletes from over 50 countries. "The Ironman 70.3 Goa has become a premier event for fitness enthusiasts both in India and globally. This challenge tests one's endurance as well as physical and mental fitness," he said, and revealed that he had been rigorously preparing for it for the last four months. Surya said, "The #FitIndia initiative by PM Narendra Modi helped me reassess my fitness goals."

Fire officers have inspected over 3,000 hospitals so far

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

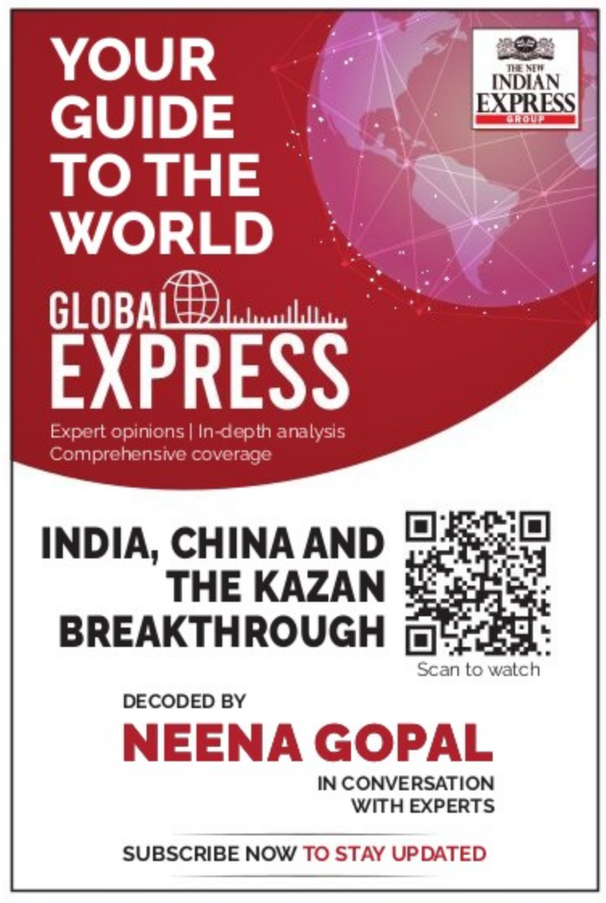
DR Vivek Dorai, Deputy Director (Medical-2), Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME), told *TNIE* that the health department has advised hospitals to implement stringent fire safety measures. "The state has over 30,000 private hospitals across various categories, including laboratories and clinics. Priority was given to inpatient buildings in the state, followed by clinics and other establishments," he said.

A circular from the health department on October 15 noted that previously, buildings below 21 metres did not have to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the fire department. They could submit a self-declaration on their compliance. The circular stated that old self-declaration is now invalid, and buildings below 21 metre too are required to obtain the NOC from the fire department. Buildings over 21 metre are classified under the National Building Code (NBC) and must obtain an NOC from fire and emergency services.

The circular instructed KPME district health officers and taluk health officers to conduct inspections and submit reports.

A senior official from the Fire and Emergency Services Department said, "The health department provided a list of 4,787 inpatient private hospitals in the state. District Fire Officers (DFOs) have inspected over 3,000 till now. Over 50% of the inspected buildings were found to be non-compliant with fire safety measures. The DFOs have submitted an audit report to higher health officials and have set a 90-day deadline for compliance before reinspection."

As per the new circular, he said, all inpatient private hospitals should have fire extinguishers, first-aid kits, hose reels, an automatic sprinkler system and manually operated electronic alarm systems.



Reject all mining proposals, CM urged

RAGHOTTAM KOPPAR @ Gadag

KARNATAKA Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti urged CM Siddaramaiah to reject all 28 mining proposals at Kappatagudda. CM Siddaramaiah had postponed mining proposals in a meeting recently. Now, Basavaraj Horatti wrote a letter to CM and urged him to take a strict step and cancel all mining proposals. This week Tontadarya seer, social activists and environmentalists also submitted memorandum to CM through DC and requested to cancel mining proposals.

The letter says that many social activists, justices and environmentalists in Gadag and surrounding places have been demanding that mining should not take place in Kappatagudda. However, entrepreneurs have not given up their efforts for mining. In this regard, 28 proposals have come before the government to start mining.

Kappatagudda

In the letter to CM, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said that it is a welcome decision that CM Siddaramaiah postponed the proposals to start mining within 10 km from Kappattagudda, which is declared as a wildlife sanctuary. This has brought some relief. But all these proposals should be rejected and an order should be issued, that no mining or any other industry will be allowed to open in this part. It is regrettable that only a few proposals have been put forward, and the people of Karnataka and the environmental activists have become suspicious and have no faith in the government. The CM should be straight forward and be clear and cancel all proposals and give a clear order for the conservation of Kappattagudda by taking a bold step in saving Kappatagudda which is the only hillock of this region. The letter also said that CM Siddaramaiah will earn special love and respect from the people of North Karnataka after taking a bold step.

The government has always claimed that Kappatagudda is a sensitive zone, and therefore a clear order should be given to stop any mining in that area. Merely blurting out proposals will create anxiety and doubts among the masses. All this needs to be stopped. Kappatagudda has a rich biodiversity and is a valuable asset of the country.

EXPRESS READ

Cops raid farmhouse owned by KTR's brother-in-law

HYDERABAD: Cases under the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered against Raj Pakala, brother-in-law of BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday for organising a party, in which a person tested positive for cocaine. The Cyberabad Special Operations Team and Excise officials raided a farmhouse in Janwada, after they received information that prohibited drugs were being consumed at a party being held there on the intervening nights of Saturday and Sunday. While the farmhouse is owned by Pakala Rajendra Prasad alias Raj Pakala, owner of software company ETG at Nanakramguda, and the brother-in-law of Rama Rao, the person who tested positive for cocaine is Vijay Madduri, CEO of ETG, and who also runs his own software firm, Fusion Aix. "Vijay said during the interrogation, in the presence of a mediator, that occasionally, they used to meet in parties over the weekends, and used to consume drugs and gamble with poker coins. The accused Vijay had built a close relationship with Raj since the last five years," the FIR said.

12 vehicles gutted in fire mishap

BENGALURU: As many as 12 vehicles, including 11 EVs, that were parked in the basement of a well-known pizzeria were gutted in a fire, in the wee hours of Sunday. Police said the fire mishap occurred at the pizzeria located on Ullal Main Road around 3.30 am. The vehicles that were used for delivery were parked in the basement, where the fire broke out, gutting 12 two-wheelers. Also, a generator was damaged in the incident, before a fire engine rushed to the spot and doused the blaze. An electric short circuit is suspected to have caused the mishap.

SAD DEMISE

John Mathew (84)

Ayroor, Edappavoor, Panamthodathil
Retd. Head of Planning & Commissioning, Shell (QGPC-Doha)
Golden Enclave, HAL, Bangalore

Funeral Service Wednesday 30th October 2024, 12 noon at The Mar Thoma Syrian Church, Primrose Road, Bangalore - 560025.

Wife: Late Lizy John

Children: Dr. Leena (Bangalore), Liby (Ireland) Dr. Lindsay (USA), Lesiley (USA)

Children-in-law: Dr. Sam Thomas (Ireland) Dr. Alice Kurian (USA), Cicil Mathews (USA)

Grandchildren: Dr Jason, Jessica, Lauren, Lisa and Leah

Funeral Live: https://youtube.com/live/11Ar6fv7PfM?feature=share

EDITORIAL

"All rights secured to citizens under the Constitution are worth nothing, and a mere bubble, except guaranteed to them by an independent and virtuous judiciary" — Andrew Jackson

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

WORRYING DROP IN WORKER HEADCOUNT IN RURAL JOBS SCHEME

AT a time of jobless growth, over 39 lakh deletions of registered workers in the Centre's rural jobs scheme was reported in the first half of the current financial year. Data compiled by an NGO from the official website of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS) shows 84.8 lakh deletions against 45.5 lakh additions. It also indicates an 8 percent drop in active workers, which means there are fewer beneficiaries compared to last year. Rigorous scrutiny of the scheme's job card data is a regular exercise undertaken by all states and Union Territories. But there are strict parameters for cancelling any job card. For example, it can be deleted if it is fake or duplicate or the beneficiary is no longer alive. Households not willing to work any longer or families that shift out of a gram panchayat for good, too, stand to lose their job cards. But what is worrying is the question of wrongful deletions, estimated at a whopping 15 percent in Andhra Pradesh alone in an ongoing study by the NGO, LibTech India. It suggests a slant in data purification.

Consequently, employment opportunities under MGNREGS dropped steeply to 154 crore person-days against 184 crore in the same period last year. In other words, a 16.6 percent drop in person-days in the first half of this year. In contrast, person-days had gone up by 10 percent during the same period to 166 crore in 2022-23. Peak person-days recorded in a full financial year was 309.01 crore in 2023-24—a little over the previous peak of 389.09 crore in 2020-21 when the pandemic was at its peak.

Another worrying metric was that over 6.7 crore workers nationwide were ineligible to seek any work under the scheme for not complying with the mandatory Aadhaar seeding. An Aadhaar-based Payment System (ABPS) has been made mandatory since January 1 to curb fund leakage. While the intention may be above board, it indicates ABPS implementation challenges in the heart of rural India. On paper, ABPS may not be a constraint for employment, but ground reports suggest otherwise. Lower worker participation is hard to digest amid high inflation at a time when there is little indication of easing rural distress. The poorest of the poor could be slipping through the cracks due to various reasons, including ABPS. The government needs to plug the gaps immediately.

NEW RULES FOR DISABILITY CERTIFICATE LACK VISION

CONSIDER the conundrum created by the National Medical Commission: A person with disability can only avail of the benefits of reservation if they meet a benchmark of disabled more than 40 percent. Yet a person with such a disability is ineligible to pursue medical education in India. A young medical aspirant had to approach the highest court of the country in order for the absurdity of the NMC's norms to be highlighted. The Supreme Court not only enabled the youngster to gain admission to an MBBS course, but also ruled that the existence of a benchmark disability alone cannot disqualify a student from educational opportunities. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act was enacted, as the court pointed out, to grant disabled persons full participation and inclusion in society, equal opportunity and respect, and freedom to make their own choices.

However, the state and its bureaucracy more often than not design policy that effectively excludes rather than includes persons with disabilities, who are among the most marginalised in the country; this is hardly the first time a disabled candidate has been forced to go to the courts during medical admissions. Preventing misuse of a benefit is seen as more important than ensuring that every person who requires the benefit is able to access it. The effect is the Schrodinger's quota called out by the apex court. On similar lines are the Union government's recent amendments to RPwD rules, in the wake of the Puja Khedkar affair, which while claiming to streamline the process of getting a disability certificate are only expected to make it more onerous. The intent is to prevent misuse, yet it does not consider that systemic corruption led to Khedkar's alleged misdeeds, not the lax rules. The SC, in fact, pointed out that the approach of the government, and even private sector, should be as to "how best to accommodate and grant the opportunity to the candidates with disability" rather than "how best to disqualify the candidates".

It is long past due for the government to understand the spirit of inclusion and dignity permeating the RPwD and ensure that this spirit becomes the cornerstone of policy, especially in matters of public transport, education and healthcare, so that disabled persons may be able to live freely and fully, exploring and realising their true potential, rather than being boxed in by short-sighted, unempathetic bureaucracy.

QUICK TAKE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST FRAUDS

IT'S remarkable that even the prime minister has now felt it necessary to warn the nation of a relatively new kind of online scam that has suddenly become a dangerous menace. Scammers posing as government officials threaten citizens with having done something illegal. Using video calls, they claim to 'digitally arrest'—something not possible under Indian law—the victim and extort money. The Cybercrime Coordination Centre says that Indians have lost at least Rs 120 crore to such frauds. It's clear that the current financial safety campaigns are not nearly as effective as is necessary. Governments and financial institutions must raise awareness so that citizens can be safe online.

At the heart of the judicial system is the ability of a judge to render an opinion without fear or favour. But what is of utmost importance is that citizens have confidence in the system

ENSURING THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO IMPARTIAL JUSTICE

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

JUDGES of subordinate courts are the backbone of the judicial system. The basic structure of our judicial system has evolved over the years. It was actually put in place when the British ruled India. The Simon Commission in 1930 emphasised the importance of an independent, competent and fair-minded judiciary that would enjoy the confidence of the people.

In 1933-34, a Joint Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms prepared the ground for the Government of India Act, 1935. It opined that while the federal and high court judges are appointed by the Crown, their independence was secured (a statement I doubt). But the appointments of judges of subordinate courts must necessarily be made by authorities in India who will exercise a certain measure of control over them in matters of their appointment, promotion and posting.

The Committee went on to comment that a system where the promotion of judges is in the hands of a minister exposes itself to the pressure of the government and is more likely to sap the independence of a magistrate. They also commented that judges of the subordinate courts are more closely in contact with the people and therefore their independence should be placed beyond question.

This sentiment, expressed way back in 1933-34, rings true even today, except the masters have changed. Instead of appointments being made by the government in power, today the control of the subordinate courts is vested in the high court of the respective state.

Under the 1935 Act, the appointment of judges in subordinate courts was to be made by the governors of provinces in consultation with the high courts. Consequently, in matters of appointment and transfer of judges of district courts, the reins of power continued in the hands of the governor. It was ultimately in 1948 in the conference of judges of the federal courts and chief justices of high courts that it was recommended that provisions be made to place this power exclusively in the hands of high courts.

Under Article 235 of the Constitution, each high court has its own rules for recruitment, conditions of service, promotion and transfer of judges of subordinate courts. Yet, the perception amongst lay people is that subordinate judges are loath to exercise their judicial powers lest it stymie their chances of promotion. Each district judge hopes ultimately to be elevated as a judge of the high court.

SOURAV ROY

Notably, 65 percent of the judges of the high court are appointed from a cadre of district judges by promotion on seniority, 10 percent on merit through the departmental tests, and the balance 25 percent from amongst legal practitioners. As of June 2023, the sanctioned strength of the district courts in India was 25,523.

Administrative control by high courts over the members of the subordinate judiciary impacts their independence in practice, particularly in the lowest rung of the hierarchy. This is natural as every judge would like to be elevated to the high court. Therefore, they look towards judges of high courts for their promotion, which also impacts the independence of the system at that level.

Appointments to special courts constituted under special statutes like the PMLA and the UAPA are important assignments and judges are hand-picked to deal with matters that provide fodder for news splashes. This provides judges with exposure to cases of high public importance. In such matters, special judges are seen unwilling to grant bail. We have seen, on occasions, that judges at that level who have rendered judgements against prosecution agencies in high-profile cases are transferred out. Even distinguished judges of the high courts have been transferred overnight.

We have also witnessed students, those opposing government diktats and participating in public protests, being denied bail for years. Even high court judges are unwilling to grant bail partly because of the stringent bail provisions under special statutes and largely due to the inbuilt hesitation about their promotional prospects being jeopardised. Sad, but true.

In the procedure for appointments to the higher judiciary, the chief justice interacts with the government. They say that law and justice should be distant neighbours and sometimes strangely hostile. A cosy relationship between the collegium, through the chief justice, and the executive allows for a process of give and take, which can negatively impact an institutional framework that should not allow judges committed to a particular ideology to be inducted to the higher judiciary.

Some appointments, in the recent past, have allowed for such judges to be appointed. One such judge, after quitting office and joining a political party, openly confessed to his affiliation to the ideology of a particular party. In many cases, such affiliations are publicly known but not commented upon for reasons easy to understand. This trend does not augur well. There can and should not be any compromise when it comes to appointments to the higher judiciary.

What we need is a complete overhaul of the system. No judge can be expected to function truly independently if his judgements are guided by factors relating to his promotion. The rationale behind the power of appointment, promotion and transfer of judges of subordinate courts being taken away from governments and vested in the high courts is still relevant. All that has changed is the exercise of control has been shifted from the executive to the judiciary.

This is also true of the appointments to the higher judiciary. The Supreme Court took away the power of the government to appoint judges to the higher judiciary and vested it in the collegium system. But the concern still remains the same. All that has happened is the institution now is required to be saved from the influence of the collegium.

We need to find solutions to make sure our judicial system is independent of external influences, both subtle and not so subtle. At the heart of the judicial system is the ability of a judge to render an opinion without fear or favour. But what is of utmost importance is that people in this country have confidence in our judges and our judicial system. Any erosion of that confidence presents a danger to the very foundations of our democracy.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

AN UNDERRATED FRUIT FROM THE CITRUS FAMILY

RENUKA NARAYANAN
FAITHLINE

WE are used to valorising the mango as our 'national fruit' and rightly so, because of its all-India profile and many delicious varieties. People even fight about which ones are better. But this week, as winter begins to nip the North and its seasonal bounty starts showing up, I realise anew that we have another fruit that is surely God's bounty to our land—the orange. Oranges are associated the world over with prosperity and happiness. The Roman goddess Juno apparently brought oranges as her dowry when she married the god Jupiter. And we all know that the colour orange is holy in Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.

I discovered that in the South, the orange season lasts from October through March. In the north, it's from December to February, while Central and Western India's orange season is from November through January and again, from March through May.

The mandarin orange is apparently the most grown among citrus fruits in India. It occupies over 40 percent of the total area under citrus cultivation here. The most important commercial citrus species in India are the mandarin (Citrus reticulata), sweet orange (Citrus sinensis) and acid lime (Citrus aurantifolia) sharing 41, 23 and 23 percent respectively.

It seems oranges are grown mostly in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh. The Nagpur mandarin is rated as one of the best in the world and if you want to grow some, you could probably try sourcing it from the Central Citrus Research Institute, Amravati Road, Nagpur.

Besides tasting great, oranges are rich in Vitamin C, A, B, and phosphorus. We can eat them fresh or as juice, jam and squash. Or in Cointreau, the orange liqueur, with which you can also make the dessert Crepes Suzette. I rate thick-cut orange marmalade as a great spread for hot, buttered toast.

As a young college student, I loved storming Pragati Maidan in Delhi for Peshawari almonds and strings of dried Afghani figs. Today, while those treats are freely found in shops and on apps, what I miss are the blood-red 'Malta' oranges from Gujranwala, now in Pakistan.

I've heard Malta oranges were first grown in Punjab in Sardar Hari Singh Nalwa's famous orchard. Hari Singh Nalwa (1791-1837) was one of India's legendary generals. He was the commander-in-chief of the Sikh Khalsa Fauj, the army of the Sikh Empire. He is known for his role in the conquests of Kasur, Sialkot, Attock, Multan, Kashmir, Peshawar and Jamrud. His father, Gurdial Singh, died when he was just seven in 1798 and his maternal uncle raised him.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> Eating a Malta orange is a spiritual experience, like standing under an amaltas tree in full bloom. When you eat it, the glory of creation bursts on your brain in '*sphota*' like Sanskrit writer Bhartrihari's 'explosion of utterance', an instantaneous flash of recognition

Hari Singh earned the sobriquet 'Nalwa' after he reportedly killed a tiger at a young age. He was also called 'Bagh Maar' or tiger killer for that reason. His descendants are still very much around. That he grew oranges is a soft facet of his heroic personality as a warrior.

Maltas haven't come my way in Delhi since my teens, which were a while ago by dental if not mental reckoning; and I only ever got to eat them again in Sicily in my feckless 20s. What you find in boring plenty now on the orange front is kinu (Kinnow), which of course is easy to peel and eat but seems to have chased out other interesting kinds, like how pigeons have exiled sparrows from Delhi.

Why should we care a fig about Malta oranges, you say? Imagine you've had a dusty, tiring journey. You come home, wash up and there on a snow-white quarter plate with a spoon placed invitingly by it, sits half a chilled blood-red Malta orange. Just the sight of it is so beautiful that you have to look again. And when you eat it, the glory of creation bursts on your brain in '*sphota*' like Sanskrit writer Bhartrihari's 'explosion of utterance', an instantaneous flash of recognition, though he was talking about the aesthetics of language, not fruit. Bhartrihari (circa 570 CE to 651 CE) was a philosopher and grammarian who lived in ancient Ujjain. He asserted that *sphota* contains "an inner energy (*kratu*) that seeks to burst forth into expression."

If you get your hands on enough Malta oranges to both eat fresh and cook with, you might like 'Sauce Maltaise', a classic French sauce. It blends the zest and juice of one blood orange with two egg yolks, salt, pepper, lemon juice and melted unsalted butter. It's a fun upgrade for steamed or grilled broccoli and asparagus as well as sautéed potatoes. It's even used as a topping for pan-fried fish and a variation of hollandaise sauce in the classic Eggs Benedict.

These are quick Western recipes available online, and easily made in Indian kitchens; there's no need to source exotic ingredients except, of course, the Malta orange.

Plainly put, eating a Malta orange is a spiritual experience, like standing under an amaltas tree in full bloom. Emanuel Bonavia, MD, Brigade-Surgeon in the Indian Medical Service, spelt out how matters stood back in 1888 in his fascinating study, wordily but comprehensively titled '*The Cultivated Oranges and Lemons Etc of India and Ceylon with Researches into the Origin and the Derivation of their Names and Other Useful Information with an Atlas of Illustrations*'. He categorically stated, "The best of all is the blood orange of Gujranwala."

There are so many bright, modern farmers in our land. Dear people, are you going to be left pipped or won't you make this amazing ancient orange happen affordably at home? We'd so love you for it.

(Views are personal)
(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Meeting China

Ref: *Beyond borders on India-China table* (Oct 27). The meeting between the Indian PM and the Chinese president on the sidelines of the BRICS summit is of great significance as consensus has been reached to take steps to resolve the border dispute going on for years. Mutual trust and understanding is essential in this matter.
Nabnit Panigrahi, Rayagada

Strengthening relations

It is absolutely true that the trade-off with China should keep larger interests in mind over short-term gains. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar recently stated that disengagement is merely the first step in our joint efforts with China. The next step would be deescalation, followed by addressing the greater issue of border monitoring and boundary definition. The meeting between Modi and Xi is a positive start in strengthening the bilateral relationship.
K Venkatasubramanian, Chennai

Trump's campaign

Ref: *Trump triggers trade-offs in geopolitics* (Oct 27). Donald Trump's campaign is centred around boastfulness, half-truths, utter lies and toxic information. Let us not forget that the 2021 Capitol Hill insurgency was incited by him. Despite all these, it is bewildering that the polls say almost half of the US is with him.
C G Kuriakose, Kothamangalam

Temple flagpole

Ref: *The history that pillars hold up* (Oct 27). The flagpole or *dhvajasthamba*, often seen at temples, signifies the devotee's journey towards purity. It symbolises the surrender of ego, pride and greed before entering the sanctum. Devotees are encouraged to leave behind their negative traits and approach the divine with a pure heart and mind.
Avinashiappan Myilsami, Sulur

Historical pillars

Research on studying freestanding pillars enhances understanding the history of structures and civilisations. These pillars convey cultural narratives, technological advancements and societal values. Celebrating architectural achievements offers insights into humanity's history, showcasing innovative engineering techniques.
N R Jagannath, Bengaluru

Denied education

Ref: *Studies hit as more girls do domestic chores: Unicef* (Oct 27). Unicef's findings are correct when it comes to children, especially from rural areas. Brilliant children are denied the opportunity for education.
V K Kumar, Thiruvananthapuram

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Sarbananda Sonowal @sarbanandasonwal
With the ideals of Paramguru Krishnaguru, our Yuva Shakti must pledge to discover and reclaim Bharat's ancient spiritual, cultural and social heritage.

Jawhar Sircar @jawharsircar
Does this India China border truce mean that China will continue to occupy a thousand square kilometres of India territory? Will the sacrifice of so many soldiers be in vain?

Akhilesh Yadav @yadavakhilesh
The (UP) government, which is expert in changing names, should now change the name of 'police custody' to 'torture house'.

Stay alert against 'digital arrests', says Modi

PM offers 3-step solution to cyber frauds — stop, think & take action; says probe agencies working to combat menace

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

What the PM said

- Probe agencies are working with states. Awareness is essential in protecting oneself from this crime
- Fraudsters create so much pressure on the victim that one gets scared
- People can dial 1930 to connect with the national cyber helpline or its portal

AMID rising incidents of 'digital arrests', Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday appealed to the citizens in the 115th episode of his 'Maan Ki Baat' radio broadcast not to panic when faced with suspicious audio or video calls. He also assured the nation that investigating agencies are actively working to combat these threats in collaboration with the state governments.

"Whenever you receive a call from fraudsters, either audio or video, don't be scared. You should be aware that no investigating agency ever inquires about matters like this. I give three steps to digital security: Stop, Think and Take action," said the PM.

Modi's message comes at a moment when digital frauds are posing a challenge to personal security and public trust in technology. He said there is no system like 'digital arrest' in law. "This is just a fraud, deceit, it is a lie — a gang of criminals doing this are enemies of the society," PM said, adding that all investigating agencies are working with state governments to deal with the problem.

He said thousands of fraudulent video-calling IDs have been blocked by government agencies and lakhs of SIM cards, mobile phones and bank accounts have been blocked. "Those who have become victims of this kind of cyber fraud should alert others," he said.

Broadcasting an audio of a cyber fraudster's conversation with a person midway through his speech in the episode, PM said, "Fraudsters at times impersonate police, CBI and RBI officials. They converse with a lot of confidence," he said.

The PM referred to requests from his listeners for a discussion on the menace. Shedding light on the modus operandi of such fraudsters, the PM said, "They (cyber frauds) collect personal information as their first move and then create an atmosphere of fear."

He said the fraudsters collect enormous information about their victims. "They will scare you so much on the phone that you won't be able to even think," Modi said, asking people to dial 1930 to connect with the national cyber helpline or connect with its portal.

"I would like to urge schools and colleges to involve students in campaigns against cyber scams. We can fight this challenge only with collective efforts," he said.

The PM also highlighted other issues such as achievements in arts and culture and the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Bhagwan Birsa Munda. "Sardar Patel's birth anniversary, falling on October 31, coincides with Deepawali. The 'Run for Unity' event will be held on October 29," he said, asking people to be part of the campaign.

Govt advisory lists over dozen methods of online fraudsters to con people

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

THE cyber security agency under the Ministry of Information Technology, CERT-In, issued an advisory to general public on Sunday listing out more than a dozen methods, including 'digital arrests' being used by the fraudsters to carry online scams in the country.

The advisory comes on a day when the Prime Minister too spoke against such frauds during his radio programme.

In the advisory, the Computer Emergency Response Team of India (CERT-In) said, "Digital arrest is an online scam that involves taking the names of police and other investigative agencies. However, people should be aware that government agencies do not use platforms like WhatsApp or Skype for official communication. Verify their identity by directly contacting the relevant agency."

In case of a 'digital arrest', victims receive a phone call, e-mail or message claiming that they are under investigation for illegal activities such as identity theft or money laundering. The victims are then threatened with arrest or legal consequences unless he takes immediate action, often creating panic to prevent rational thinking, the advisory said.

Under the guise of clearing their names, assisting with the probe, or refundable security deposit or escrow account, individuals are coerced into transferring money to specified bank accounts or UPI IDs, it noted.

Stressing that legitimate law-enforcement agencies "will never pressure you into sending money immediately," CERT-IN advised to "avoid sharing personal information and never disclose sensitive personal or financial details over phone or video calls."

POWER GAMES

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UP Bypolls

CONG-SP TENSION SIMMERS BENEATH UNITY FACADE

The Congress decision not to field candidates in the byelection for nine assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh is not a grand gesture to maintain the unity of the INDIA bloc, as the party has officially announced. The party chose to sit out this round of byelections only after failing to reach a respectable seat-sharing deal with the Samajwadi Party (SP). The two INDIA bloc constituents, who had jointly scored a significant victory in UP against the BJP in the recent Lok Sabha elections, fought bitterly over the seats they wanted to contest in this byelection. The Congress aimed to contest four seats: Phulpur, Meerapur, Khair, and Ghaziabad. The party expected to win Phulpur and Meerapur and hoped to put up a decent fight in the other two constituencies. It wanted the SP to contest the five seats that the latter had won in the 2022 state elections. However, the SP refused to part with Phulpur and Meerapur and declared its candidates for those two constituencies while talks between the two parties were still ongoing. This angered the Congress leadership, which threatened to break the alliance. The SP then agreed to withdraw its candidate from Phulpur, leaving the seat for Congress. But there was a catch: the SP had announced a Muslim candidate for Phulpur, while Congress planned to field a Hindu. The Congress feared that replacing the SP's Muslim candidate with a Hindu would push the sizable Muslim voters in the constituency toward the BSP and jeopardize its chances of winning. Realizing it was trapped by SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, the Congress decided to let go of Phulpur. The SP then refused to part with the Meerapur seat. This left the Congress with only two seats — Khair and Ghaziabad — where the party lacks significant support and would struggle to secure second place in a three-cornered contest with the BJP and BSP. It was at this point that the party decided not to field any candidates.

Haryana Shake-up

BHAJAN LAL'S SON CHANDER MOHAN LEADS CLP RACE

The defeat of Congress in the recent Haryana assembly elections has led to a growing chorus for a change in the party's state leadership. Deepak Babaria, the AICC in-charge for Haryana, has offered to resign after the defeat, but neither state party president Udai Bhan nor Congress Legislature Party (CLP) leader Bhupender Singh Hooda has made such an offer. The prevailing mood in the party was evident at a recent event organized at the party's headquarters in Delhi to facilitate the induction of Bajrang Punia as the Working President of the All India Kisan Congress. The event was attended by wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was elected to the Haryana assembly on a Congress ticket.

Bhupender Singh Hooda and his son Deependra Hooda, who facilitated the entry of Phogat and Punia into the Congress, were conspicuous by their absence. Their known detractors, Kumari Selja and former Union minister Choudhary Birender Singh, were present to welcome Punia and Phogat. According to sources, the party plans to replace Hooda and Udai Bhan. Among the names being discussed for the post of CLP leader are Haryana's longest-serving chief minister Bhajan Lal's son Chander Mohan, Rohtak MLA B B Batra, Jhajjar MLA Geeta Bhukkal, and Thanesar MLA Ashok Arora. Sources said Chander Mohan appears to be a clear front-runner in the race. The party is also looking for a suitable candidate from the Jat or SC community to replace Udai Bhan as the state Congress president.

Complicated registration process on NMR portal causing headache to docs

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THOUSANDS of MBBS doctors are struggling to register on the National Medical Register (NMR) portal, which was launched with much fanfare by Union Health Minister JP Nadda in August.

Now, the doctors are asked not only to upload Aadhaar, but also an affidavit if their names or state medical council names do not match the current data.

This is especially so in the case of Kerala, where the state medical council name has changed, resulting in doctors running from pillar to post to register themselves with the NMR, a comprehensive database for allopathic doctors in India.

Dr KV Asokan, national president of the Indian Medical Association, said that doctors' registration has become quite complicated and they will take it up with the National Medical Commission (NMC). "We will take it up. It is a technical problem and must be rectified. It can be easily resolved. The NMC has to simplify the procedure and change the format. They have to delink the registration with the Aadhaar," he said.

Asokan also said they had a discussion with NMC chairman Dr BN Gangadhar about the NMR portal. "This single registration process will help doctors practice in more than one state. They don't have to get a license to practice in multiple states. Earlier, it was difficult for doctors as they had to obtain a no-objection certificate from their medical council before operating in another state. Doctors were facing a lot of harassment and hardship."

The NMR is mandated under Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019, which states that the Ethics and Medical Registration Board of NMC shall maintain a national register in electronic form containing the name, address, and all recognised qualifications of a licensed medical practitioner.

Dr Asokan said doctors in Kerala especially are finding it difficult to register themselves in NMR as the name of the state medical council has been changed from Travancore Cochin Medical Council to the Kerala State Medical Council. The doctors are now being asked to file an affidavit to confirm the name change.

SC bench to hear plea against 'VIP entry charge' in temples

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

Threat to equality

With rise in religious tourism, the PIL warned that unchecked 'VIP darshans' pose a threat to equality and inclusivity in religious spaces, promoting a financially discriminatory environment. It urged the court to direct uniform access for all classes of devotees in temples and to curb preferential treatment based on payment.

THE Supreme Court's two-judge bench, led by CJI-designate **Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, said it will examine the writ petition challenging the imposition of 'VIP entry charges' at major temples across India.

The PIL said that the practice of charging fees for expedited or preferential darshan of deities discriminates against the economically disadvantaged devotees, violating Article 14 (right to equality) and Article 21 (right to dignity).

The petition argued that temples across the country are increasingly charging fees, ranging ₹400-5,000, to facilitate quicker access for those who can afford the charges, while ordinary devotees, often indigent and travelling long distances, face significant delays in darshan. Such devotees include senior citizens, women, children and persons with disabilities.

The plea argued that "such fees might infringe upon the constitutional rights to equality, dignity, and religious freedom."

The bench said, "Re-list (the plea) in the week commencing December 9, 2024." At the outset, the counsel for the petitioner said, "This is a writ against imposition of VIP entry charges. In fact, the Madras High Court had dealt with the issue but did not go into the question of whether this is discriminatory, violative of Article 14."

The apex court asked the lawyer to hand over the copy of the Madras High Court verdict in the matter. "The reason why we discussed was that there are certain issues. There are certain writ petitions pending, taking the view that there should not be any state interference/control or court interference. We will have to examine," the apex court said.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court scheduled the matter for hearing in the week commencing from December 9.

With a rising trend in religious tourism, the petition warns that unchecked 'VIP darshan' practices pose a threat to equality and inclusivity in religious spaces, promoting a financially discriminatory environment. The petition urges the court to direct uniform access for all classes of devotees in temples nationwide and to curb preferential treatment based solely on payment.

"Not only the Hindus but also a large number of Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs visit the big temples across the country. The practice of imposing 'VIP entry charges' is intra-community as well as inter-community discrimination…Preferential treatment to a class/section of persons in the temples or other religious structures is a retrograde practice, promotes inequality and inequitability, and is antithetical to the basic tenets of the Constitution," the petition said.

Navy indigenises 262 design, development projects

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian Navy's institutional approach towards indigenisation and innovation is bearing fruit with more than 250 projects covering the design and development areas. This holds significance keeping the supply chain issues plaguing the country's several military projects.

"As many as 262 projects in the field of design and development are at various stages of staff evaluation, of which 171 projects have been contracted under iDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence) scheme," said a defence source.

Also, the recently concluded DefConnect 4.0 saw a financial commitment of ₹132.5 crore to the Navy's innovation efforts in a single launch of problem statements. Major equipment under indigenisation through 97 projects of TDF, Make and Revenue routes are accounting for about ₹850 crore, the source added.

The Indian Navy has been at the forefront since 1965 in focusing on indigenisation of the design, development as the leadership, said sources. The force believes in a robust indigenous industry, which is crucial for sustaining an omnipresent blue-water force that the Navy has evolved into.

"The disruption in global supply chains due to isolated conflicts and amorphous shift of geo-political alliances has served as a stark reminder, time and again of the need to be self-reliant from system-level down to the most singular component-level."

With changing dimensions of war, the cost of technology denial can be crippling. "Importing technology is not a sustainable option for a rising global force such as the Indian Navy, which is already a preferred security partner in the Indian Ocean Region."

In order to remain a modern and combat ready force, the Indian Navy is committed to be 100% self-reliant by pursuing indigenisation activities from component level upwards; and leapfrogging technology through various avenues. The approach of the Navy encompasses the potential of the Indian Industry.

The Indian shipbuilding industry has come of age with 63 out of 65 IN ships under construction, being built at Indian shipyards, turning the Indian Navy into a Builder's Navy.

About the overall growth, about 90, 60 and 50% indigenous content has been achieved in the aspects of 'float', 'move' and 'flight' categories, respectively, sources added.

The float part includes Hull and its related fittings and components, Move includes the engine and whatever makes it move, Complete propulsions systems, associated machinery and auxiliaries. Fight, includes, sensors and weapons.

The Indian Navy is now focussing its indigenisation efforts in the domains of propulsion, power generation, weapons and sensors.

The Indigenisation Units (IUs) at Visakhapatnam for ENC & ANC; and at Mumbai for WNC under the umbrella of Centre for Indigenisation & Self Reliance (CISR) at Coimbatore leads the 'bottom-up' approach of indigenisation, catering to the indigenisation needs of field units.

CISR has also reached out to and engaged with more than 30 industries to map their capability for specific indigenisation needs. A dedicated indigenisation Roll-on Plan for 2023-26 is in force for progressing indigenisation of assembly, sub-assembly and components.

FILLIP TO ATMA NIRBHARTA

ABOUT 262 PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES OF STAFF EVALUATION

The Indian Navy is now focussing its indigenisation efforts in the domains of propulsion, power generation, weapons and sensors

Disruption in global supply chains due to isolated conflicts has served as a stark reminder to the force

As millers complain, expert panel set up to study poor yield of key paddy variety

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Centre has constituted a committee of experts from the IIT-Kharagpur to review the paddy variety PR-126 after receiving complaints, especially from Punjab's rice millers, about relatively lesser rice yield, officials said.

The PR-126 variety, adopted in Punjab on a large scale since 2016, has been giving 67% of out turn ratio (OTR) from paddy to rice. However, this year Punjab's rice millers complained that PR-126 has been giving 4-5% less OTR. Rice millers claim that the paddy variety comes with an intrinsic defect of broken grains, resulting in lesser rice yield of around 5 kg per quintal.

Union Minister for Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi said, "There were no complaints related to PR-126 variety since its adoption in 2016. It is understood that complaints are now being made because of a rise in hybrid varieties that are marketed in the name of PR-126 in Punjab."

The Centre said a study was assigned to IIT-Kharagpur for reviewing the present OTR of the paddy variety. "Tests are being conducted in different rice-procuring states including Punjab," said Sanjeev Chopra, secretary of the department of food and public distribution.

Being a short-duration variety, PR-126 matures in just 125 days and requires less water. But millers say it is often ready in 110 days, resulting in a rice production ratio of 62 to 64 kg. Lesser rice yield is forcing mill owners to absorb the loss as the Centre demands the full quota of 67 kg per quintal of paddy.

Meanwhile, the government has denied any crisis of storage capacity of paddy or rice as procurement is delayed compared to previous year. In Punjab, a large number of farmers have lined up at procurement centres with their paddy. As on October 26, the government procured 54.5 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy against 61.5 LMT last year.

'HYBRID VARIETIES MARKETED'

PR-126, a key paddy variety, used to give **67%** of Out Turn Ratio (OTR) from paddy to rice

This year, Punjab's rice millers complain that it has given **4-5%** less OTR than usual

According to Union minister Pralhad Joshi, the prime reason of the reduced OTR is due to the rise in hybrid varieties that are marketed in the name of PR-126

Hybrid varieties have a significantly lower OTR than varieties like PR-126

PR-126 HAS BEEN ADOPTED IN PUNJAB ON LARGE SCALE SINCE 2016

DRUG SEIZED

Police have arrested three women and a man after seizing heroin and several stolen mobile phones collectively valued at Rs 20.20 lakh from their possession in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township, an official said on Thursday.

4 HELD IN FIRING IN PUNJAB VILLAGE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	25	Mumbai	34	26
Bhopal	30	22	Panaji	30	27
Jaipur	35	22	Patna	35	23
Amritsar	35	18	Lucknow	35	21
Chennai	32	28	Port Blair	32	26
Kolkata	34	27	Imphal	27	18
Srinagar	26	6	Chandigarh	34	17

● Maha BJP recalls MNS support to MahaYuti in Lok Sabha elections ● 19 leaders who switched sides get candidature in rival alliances

BJP's 'back Raj son' call raises heat

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

THE candidature of MNS chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit from Mahim-Dadar assembly seat is turning into a flash point between the Shiv Sena (Shinde) and BJP. The BJP has asked Sena MLA Sada Sarvankar to withdraw his nomination, but he has refused.

Sources said Chief Minister Eknath Shinde called Sarvankar to his official residence at Varsha bungalow on Sunday and asked him to withdraw his nomination and extend support to Amit. The meeting was reportedly attended by deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. However, Sarvankar stuck to his ground.

Sarvankar repeatedly stuck to his claim over the seat saying he has represented it many terms. "If BJP is really concerned about Amit Thackeray, it should offer him an MLC seat from its quota so that he doesn't have to contest the election. I will not change my decision," he said. "BJP should not put pressure on me," he added.

BJP Mumbai president Ashish Shelar said the MNS chief had supported the Maha Yuti in the Lok sabha polls unconditionally support. "If Raj Thackeray, who has retained his stance over Hindutva, cherishes our relationships, and has announced his son's candidature, then we as Maha Yuti should extend support to his son," Shelar said.

Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde with MNS founder Raj Thackeray

"I believe Maha Yuti should maintain this friendship even if Uddhav Thackeray feels differently. We are not against Sada Sarvankar. But I sincerely feel that as Maha Yuti, everyone needs to take a positive political stance. This will convey a positive message to the people of Maharashtra," said Shelar.

Sources said Shinde is also obliged to the MNS chief because Raj supported him when he had revolted against Uddhav. Besides, in Lok Sabha polls, Raj campaigned for Shinde's son Shrikant Shinde in Kalyan seat against Uddhav's Sena candidate. Shinde has reportedly asked Sarvankar to follow the alliance line otherwise he may not get the Sena candidate status from Mahim-Dadar.

Meanwhile, Shinde Sena nominated RS MP Milind Deora against Uddhav Thackeray's son Aaditya Thackeray from Mumbai's Worli seat.

Cong announces names of 14 candidates in 4th list

The Congress on Sunday released the fourth list of 14 candidates for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections scheduled for November 20 The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the party announced this selection of candidates for various constituencies across the State, focusing on a mix of experienced leaders and new faces.

Young faces in NCP's Maha list of candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

THE Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) has fielded many young and new faces for the state assembly election in Maharashtra. The 84 years old Sharad Pawar had a chance to field former MLAs and MPs and ministers in state assembly elections from his party, but in most places, he has chosen the young blood.

Earlier Pawar said that he groomed the second generation leaders in Maharashtra like Ajit Pawar, late RR Patil, Jayant Patil, but expected that second generation will groom the third generation leaders. "But they failed to do so, so I decided in these elections to groom third generation leaders," said a party source.

In Mohal state assembly constituency, Sharad Pawar had a choice of fielding sitting NCP MLA Ramesh Kadam, or farmer minister Laxman Dhobale. But he chose Ramesh Kadam's daughter Siddhi, who has is post-graduate from Tata Institute of Social Science and is working with an NGO.

Turncoats make the cut in rival J'khand parties

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

TURNCOATS, who switched sides just before the elections or after being denied tickets, have emerged as the first preference of both the NDA and the INDIA bloc. Each alliance has awarded tickets to 13 turncoats, including prominent figures like Champai Soren.

Nine of them -- Babulal Marandi, Sita Soren, Amit Yadav, Saryu Roy, Kamlesh Singh, Jai Prakash Bhai Patel, Kedar Hajra, and Lobin Hembrom – are MLAs.

For the BJP, there will be a challenge for Muslim-supporting leaders to harmonise with the party's Hindu nationalist workers. Meanwhile, for JMM, BJP leaders with a Hindutva image may face potential challenges in building harmony with Muslim and tribal organisations.

According to JMM insiders, party's Muslim and tribal workers feel that these defected leaders from the BJP could weaken the party's core ideological foundation due to their past affiliation with the BJP's Hindutva agenda.

Similarly in BJP, leaders known as prominent supporters of the Muslim community may create disharmony among the party workers. However, if the party leadership plays a critical role in ensuring smooth coordination, this disagreement can be resolved, though it is likely that some ideological conflicts may persist.

Former Ministers Kamlesh Singh and Loius Marandi are the two prominent examples. Kamlesh Singh, who won 2014 Assembly polls from NCP ticket, and had close ties with the Muslim community in Hussainabad, has now joined BJP and will seek votes on Hindutva ideology.

Former BJP minister Louis Marandi, who defeated CM Hemant Soren in the 2014 Assembly elections as the BJP candidate from Dumka, has joined JMM and will seek votes from those who had opposed her during the last elections.

JAIPUR DIARY

RAJESH ASNANI
Our correspondent in Jaipur
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BJP's renaming politics sparks buzz in Jaipur

Before the BJP completes its first year of the formation of its government in Rajasthan, the renaming spree has begun. The Jaipur Municipal Corporation has renamed thirteen prominent spots across the city. The areas renamed include mixed-communities, some with a history of communal tension. Civil Lines MLA Gopal Sharma and Hawamahal MLA Balmukund Acharya were pressing for changes. Jaipur's iconic Zenana Hospital is now Mata Yashoda Hospital, while Hasanpura colony will now be called Haripura. Jaipur's Chandpole Circle has been renamed as Maharishi Valmiki Circle.

IAS Tina Dabi bows five times before BJP leader

IAS officer and social media sensation Tina Dabi is back in the spotlight, but this time it's not for her policy work or inspirational posts. A video of Dabi bowing repeatedly - five times in seven seconds - before BJP leader Satish Poonia has set the internet abuzz. The incident occurred on Thursday at the flag-off event for new garbage collection rickshaws under her 'Navo Barmer' project. As District Collector Dabi welcomed Poonia, who was busy checking his phone, she went into an unexpected flurry of bows – but Poonia, engrossed in a phone call, barely noticed.

Raje son Dushyant Singh in BCCI's power play

In a move that's adding a twist to Rajasthan's cricket-politics crossover, former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje is reportedly setting the stage for her son, Dushyant Singh, to enter the world of cricket administration. With Rajasthan District Cricket Association elections around the corner, sources say Raje has her eyes set on positioning Dushyant within the powerful BCCI framework. And with the RCA presidency as a stepping stone, the way could open to the prestigious role of BCCI president - currently held by none other than Home Minister Amit Shah's son, Jay Shah. It's no secret that political heirs are venturing into cricket governance.

Ten injured in stampede at Bandra railway station amid heavy festival rush

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

AT least 10 people were injured, two of them in critical condition, after a stampede broke out in Mumbai's Bandra station on Sunday, police and railway officials said.

The stampede occurred when hundreds of people attempted to board a Gorakhpur-bound train to head to their native places for the upcoming Diwali and Chhatth festivals, officials said.

The incident occurred at platform number 1 around 2.45 am when unreserved Bandra-Gorakhpur Antyodaya Express was "slowly moving" from the Bandra terminus yard towards the platform before its scheduled departure at 5.10 am.

A video of the incident has gone viral on social media which shows chaos at the station as scores of frantic travellers rush to board the train.

Social media was flooded with videos of the chaotic scene, showing passengers running, shouting, and some appearing injured and blooded. People continued to board though a passenger with a leg injury was lying by the compartment door.

"Antyodaya Express runs every Sunday. Being unreserved and affordable, it usually attracts a high number of passengers. Due to the Diwali festival, the rush was unusually high. Additionally, the special train scheduled to run yesterday did not arrive, resulting in even more passengers converging here. Our team was present, but people suddenly rushed for seats. We are investigating this incident and facts," Central Railway Deputy Commissioner Manoj Nana Patil said.

RPF, GRP, and home guard officers on duty admitted the injured to the nearby Government Bhabha Hospital.

All injured passengers are now reported to be in stable condition, according to the medical team. Meanwhile, opposition leaders criticised the local administration and the Railways, saying inadequate festive season planning led to the incident.

Didi rule sponsors infiltration, corruption: Shah

SULAGNA SENGUPTA @Kolkata

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that peace will return to West Bengal only when infiltration is stopped and corruption is stamped out, calling for a change of government in the 2026 assembly elections.

He said incidents of assault on women in Sandeshkhali and the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar Hospital are evidence that women are "not safe" in the state.

"In Bengal, where Rabindra Sangeet used to be heard in the morning, sound of bombs is heard everywhere now. In Bengal, state-sponsored infiltration is going on. Corruption in job hiring, health sector and rations along with cut money and syndicates, is rampant. To get rid of these and build a Sonar Bangla as envisioned by Gurudev and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the people of Bengal need to elect a BJP government in 2026," he said after launching the party's membership drive in West Bengal, setting a target of enrolling one crore members from the state.

Shah said a change of government in 2026 will usher in 'achhe din' and peace in the state. "The money that PM Modi sends is misused because of corruption.

Don't worry. With the counting of votes in the 2026 elections in Bengal, achhe din (good days) will start," he said at Bangaon in North 24 Parganas district. "This cut-money culture and corruption must end in West Bengal," he said while setting a target of "winning a two-thirds majority" in the 2026 polls in Bengal.

Shah's attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress comes ahead of the November 13 bypolls in six assembly constituencies. Inaugurating a new passenger terminal building and a cargo gate 'Maitri Dwar' at Petrapole land port bordering Bangladesh earlier in the day, Shah said that PM Narendra Modi is committed to the development of West Bengal. He said land ports play an important role in establishing peace in the region.

"When there is no scope for the legal movement of people across the border, illegal modes arise, which impacts peace in the country... There can be peace in Bengal only when infiltration stops," Shah said, adding land ports play an important role in improving connectivity and relations among neighbouring countries.

The BJP leader said the prime minister started many initiatives across sectors like health since the NDA came to power in 2014. "But the people of Bengal are deprived of the benefits given in the health sector. This deprivation will cease from 2026," he claimed.

Responding to Shah's accusations, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said, "Infiltration is a problem at the international border, which is being guarded by the BSF under his ministry. Therefore, it is a failure of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the central agencies responsible for border protection."

Shah referred to incidents in Sandeshkhali and RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where a woman doctor was raped and murdered in August, asserting that these exemplify the lack of security for women in West Bengal.

Ahead of this year's Lok Sabha polls, allegations of sexual abuse against TMC leaders in Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district had surfaced and became one of the issues dominating the parliamentary poll narratives in Bengal.

(*With inputs from PTI*)

Home Minister Amit Shah with party leader Mithun Chakraborty in Kolkata | PTI

'People of Bengal deprived of Modi schemes'

Home Minister Amit Shah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi started many initiatives across sectors like health since the NDA came to power in 2014. "But the people of Bengal are deprived of the benefits given in the health sector. This deprivation will cease from 2026," he claimed. Shah's attack on the TMC comes ahead of the November 13 bypolls.

Number of landslides in U'khand double compared to last year

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

UTTARAKHAND is battling an unprecedented surge in landslides, triggered by relentless monsoon rains, with the number of incidents skyrocketing to twice the count recorded in 2023. Since the onset of monsoon on June 23 this year, the Himalayan state has witnessed 1,521 landslides in just 17 days, with the number rising to 1,813 by the end of the monsoon season, official sources said.

"The situation is extremely fragile," said a senior official. "We are working round-the-clock to mitigate the risks and ensure public safety." Devastating rains and floods in landslide-prone areas have claimed 82 lives and left 28 people missing in Uttarakhand this monsoon season, official sources confirmed.

The fatalities include three in Almora, eight each in Chamoli and Champawat, seven in Dehradun, three in Haridwar, eight in Nainital, three in Pauri Garhwal, four in Pithoragarh, 20 in Rudraprayag, six in Tehri, 10 in Udham Singh Nagar, and two in Uttarkashi. Twenty-eight people are reported missing, while 544 livestock have perished in the disaster.

Speaking to this daily, Vinod Kumar Suman, State Secretary for Disaster Management, said, "While rain-induced landslides are unavoidable, we're investigating possible causes behind landslides in areas where rainfall wasn't a factor", adding, he told, "We have begun analyzing the potential causes behind these incidents."

The State Disaster Management Secretary Suman revealed that a special meeting was held at the State Secretariat on Saturday to analyze landslide damage and prepare 15 years' worth of data. This study will enable the state to tackle future challenges effectively.

"We have decided to compile data on landslide damage over the past 15 years," the Secretary said. "By studying this data, we will be better equipped to handle future disasters." The state aims to develop a strategy based on lessons learned from past disasters.

THE WILD SIDE

MP to radio-collar wolves to study their co-existence

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

WOLVES in Madhya Pradesh are set to be radio collared, for studying their co-existence with the bigger co-predator — tigers. Three wolves, each of them representing different packs will be radio collared in the coming weeks, to meticulously study the ecology of wolves in the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary.

This radio telemetry-based study which forms part of an ongoing two-year long research by MP State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) that started in February 2024, is particularly focussed at studying the impact of bigger co-predator — tigers (which were reintroduced at the sanctuary in 2018) on the ecology of wolves.

Considered the state with highest wolf population in India, MP, according to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) estimates, had 772 wolves in 2022, which was highest in the country. The Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary as protected area is believed to be home to the largest population of Indian wolves not only in MP, but also across the central Indian landscape. According to DFO-Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr Abdul Aleem Ansari, "This first of its kind study on wolves' ecology, once completed by 2025, will go a long way in developing strategy to conserve wolf population for other parts of the country."

Conserve wolf ecology

According to DFO-Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Dr Abdul Aleem Ansari said, "This first of its kind study on wolves' ecology, once completed by 2025, will go a long way in developing strategy to conserve wolf population for the country."

Human-wildlife conflicts on the rise in Himachal

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

Key conflict zones

The report by by the Zoological Survey of India identified Kullu, Chamba, Mandi, Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti and parts of Sirmaur districts of the hill as major conflict zones. The leopards are responsible for 30.85% conflicts, while bears contribute to 18.65%

HUMAN-wildlife conflicts are increasing in Himachal Pradesh due to the presence of Asiatic black bears and leopards, which primarily prey on sheep, goats, cattle and dogs, according to the recent wildlife census titled 'Population Estimation and Assessment of Human-Wildlife Conflict' released by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

The report has identified Kullu, Chamba, Mandi, Kinnaur, Lahaul and Spiti and parts of Sirmaur districts of the hill as major conflict zones. Meanwhile, the state is home to 529 black bears, with 307 bears and 333 leopards being individually recorded. The leopards are responsible for 30.85% conflicts, while the bears contribute to 18.65% conflicts in urban areas. Attacks on sheep and goats account for 83.79% attacks, cattle 13.20%, and horses 4.75%.

As leopards occasionally target dogs, only 3.40% such incidents were reported, and no cases of dog predation by black bears were recorded. While the highest numbers of leopard attacks are reported from Kulu, Mandi, Chamba,Una, Shimla, Sirmaur, Kangra districts, the highest number of bear attacks are recorded from Shimla, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur and Kullu. The attack on livestock varies in seasons as leopards mainly attack during spring and summer and the least in autumn.

24
People died following a fuel tanker explosion near the Ugandan capital

Sat images show damage to military bases

Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons programme site, ballistic missile programme possibly hit in Israeli strikes

DUBAI

AN Israeli attack on Iran damaged facilities at a secretive military base southeast of the Iranian capital that experts in the past have linked to Tehran's onetime nuclear weapons programme and at another base tied to its ballistic missile programme, satellite photos analysed on Sunday.

Some of the buildings damaged sat in Iran's Parchin military base, where the International Atomic Energy Agency suspects Iran in the past conducted tests of high explosives that could trigger a nuclear weapon. Iran long has insisted its nuclear program is peaceful, though the IAEA, Western intelligence agencies and others say Tehran had an active weapons program up until 2003.

The other damage could be seen at the nearby Khojir military base, which analysts believe hides an underground tunnel system and missile production sites. Iran's military has not acknowledged damage at either Khojir or Parchin from Israel's attack early Saturday, though it has said the assault killed four Iranian soldiers working in the country's air defense systems. Iran announced Sunday a civilian also had been killed, but provided no details.

Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Israeli military declined to comment.

Even after killing the top Hamas leaders, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant warned that "painful concessions" would be needed to secure the release of hostages held in Gaza and that military action alone will not achieve the country's war aims.

"Not all objectives can be achieved through military operations alone... to realise our moral duty to bring our hostages home, we will have to make painful concessions," Gallant said, in a speech marking the Hebrew calendar anniversary of the Hamas attack on October 7 last year.

Israel bombarded Hezbollah and Hamas targets in Lebanon and Gaza on Sunday, with no respite in the conflict one day after its strikes on Iran raised fears of a broader war.

The Israeli military said it had killed 70 Hezbollah fighters and struck 120 targets in southern Lebanon and carried out "precision strikes" on weapons factories and storage facilities in the Iran-backed group's southern Beirut stronghold over the past day. In Gaza, it said, it had eliminated "40 terrorists over the past day". *AP*

This satellite photo from Planet Labs PBC shows damaged buildings at Iran's Khojir military base outside of Tehran | AP

Nuanced Khamenei response to Israeli attacks

TEHRAN

IRAN's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Sunday said Israel's attack on the Islamic republic "should neither be exaggerated nor minimised". "The evil perpetrated by the Zionist regime (Israel) two nights ago must not be exaggerated or minimised," he said in a post on X, describing the deadly attack as a "miscalculation".

On Saturday, Israel carried out air strikes against military sites in Iran in response to Tehran's missile attack on October 1, itself a retaliation for the killing of Iran-backed militant leaders and a Revolutionary Guards commander.

At least four Iranian soldiers were killed in the attack which Iran said caused "limited damage" to a few radar systems.

The Israeli military has warned Tehran against responding. Iranian officials and media have since downplayed the Israeli strikes, highlighting Iran's defensive capabilities but issued no vows of a direct response. In his post, Khamenei said Israel "should understand the strength, will, and initiative of the Iranian nation and youth."

President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the fallen soldiers for their commitment to "defend their land without fear", while Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi commended Iranians' "determination to defend" themselves.

"Senior Iranian officials simply do not want to increase tensions," said Fayyaz Zahed, international relations professor at the University of Tehran.

Egypt proposes 2-day ceasefire for 4 hostages

Egypt's president said his country has proposed a two-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas during which four hostages held in Gaza would be freed. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, speaking in Cairo, said the proposal also includes the release of some Palestinian prisoners and the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza Strip. There has been no immediate response from Israel or Hamas. El-Sissi said the proposal aims to 'move the situation forward.' He said that once the two-day ceasefire goes into effect, negotiations will continue to make it permanent. Mossad chief was travelling to Doha on Sunday for talks. *AP*

B'desh War Crimes Tribunal summons former army chief

DHAKA

BANGLADESH's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Sunday summoned 20 individuals, including ex-army chief Ziaul Ahsan, 10 former ministers and two advisers to deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, to appear before it next month in connection with alleged crimes against humanity and genocide during the July-August uprising in the country.

According to the Bangladesh interim government, at least 753 people were killed and thousands injured during the uprising, which ICT prosecution team and the interim government termed crimes against humanity and genocide. Over 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Hasina and her party leaders with the ICT investigation agency and the prosecution team so far.

The ICT directed authorities concerned to produce 20 people, including 10 former ministers and two advisers to former prime minister Hasina, before it on November 18, *The Daily Star* newspaper reported.

The order was issued by a three-member ICT bench led by its Chairman Justice Md Golam Mortuza Majumder, following an application from Chief Prosecutor Md Tajul Islam. On October 17, the tribunal issued arrest warrants against Hasina and 45 others, including her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and several of her former cabinet members.

The ICT was formed by the Hasina-led Awami League government in March 2010 to try the perpetrators of the crimes against humanity committed during the 1971 war. It later formed ICT-2, and Jamaat and leaders of BNP party were executed following the judgments of the two tribunals. The tribunal remained dormant since mid-June after its chairman retired.

The interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus reconstituted the tribunal on October 12.

Nobel laureate Yunus, 84, became interim government's Chief Adviser. *PTI*

B'DESH COURT ASKS POLICE TO SUBMIT REPORT BY NOV

A Bangladesh court on Saturday ordered the police to submit the investigation report of a murder case against former premier Sheikh Hasina and 23 others by November 28, according to media reports. The murder case was filed over the death of a student.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, **NAVEEN KUMAR .J,** S/o. Jaganadhan, Aged about 47 years, residing at No. 34, 23rd Cross, 2nd Block, Akshaya Nagar, T.C. Palya Road, Bengaluru - 560 016.

I state that 11-10-2024 I have conducted Sathyanarayana Pooja in my home at the above said address and I have invited my relatives, sisters, mother, brother-in-laws and friends. During that time I have lost/misplaced the following original documents i.e.,

a) Original Sale deed document No.KRI-1-02601-2009-10 in C.D. No. KRID333 of Book No. 1, dated: 02-11-2009.
b) Original BBMP Uttara Patra issued by Revenue Department, BBMP, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru.
c) Original BBMP Certificate issued by Revenue Department, BBMP, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru.
d) Original Khatha certificate issued by Revenue Department, BBMP, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru.
e) Original Tax paid receipts issued by Revenue Department, BBMP, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru.
f) Original Building plan issued by Junior Town Planner, BBMP, Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru-560048.

I state that even after my best efforts, I could not able to trace out the same. In this regard I have also given online complaint before the Police station vide Serial No. 1305395, Dated: 26-10-2024.

It is requested to general public that any person finding the said documents, may kindly handover the said documents to the above mentioned address or

Contact : +91 9663069061

IN THE COURT OF THE SPECIAL SUBORDINATE JUDGE

(DEAL WITH L.A.O.P. CASES) AT VELLORE

I.A.NO. 4/2024
O.S.NO. 64/2019

Latha ...Petitioner/Plaintiff

Versus

G.Kannan & 3 others ...Respondents/Defendants

To

Mr. U. Mukesh, S/o S.Udayakumar
No.249, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Road, K.H.B.Colony, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560079, Karnataka State. ...4th Proposed Party

Take notice you are impleaded as 4th defendant in the above case of suit for partition and the plaintiff filed amended plaint copy (APC) in this regard, this Honorable court ordered notice to you through paper publication and it is to informed you to appear in the above said court on **19/11/2024 at 10.30 A.M.** either in person or through your counsel, failing compliance, the above case will be decided in your absence without any further notice.

G.SERALATHAN, B.A., B.L.,
Advocate & Notary,
7th Cross Street, Rajiv Gandhi Nagar, Big Allapuram, Vellore-632002.
Cell : 94436 26686.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client intends to purchase the Schedule Property as described below and is in negotiation with Mr. Nagaraju, owner of the Schedule Property. In case if any person/s has/have any claims of any kind whatsoever, they are hereby instructed to make their claims to the undersigned within 21 days from the date of publication of this Notice failing which the proposed transaction shall be completed without any reference to such claim(s) and such claim(s) shall be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of agricultural land in Sy No. 4/11 measuring 01 Acre situated at Bheemasandra Village, Maralavadi Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District, is bounded on the: East by : Government Ditch, West by : Land belongs to Mr. Venkataraju, North by : Land belongs to Mrs. Kenchamma, South by : Remaining land of the same portion.

Address of Advocate:
Sd/- **Poornima Ranganath**
Law-Assist, Advocates and Legal Consultants, No. 187, 2nd Floor, 37th Cross, 18th Main, 4th 'T' Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560041, Phone No. 9902012138
e-mail: poornimar@law-assist.in

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया | **Union Bank of India** (A Government of India Undertaking)

Support Services Department, Central Office - Annexe, Mangaladevi Temple Road, Pandeshwar, Mangaluru – 575 001; Tele-0824- 2861396 /391/786

TENDER FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT CONSULTANT FOR OBTAINING GREEN BUILDING CERTIFICATE FROM INDIAN GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL (IGBC) FOR CO ANNEXE, MANGALURU

Tender Ref No. CO/MNG-ANX/SSD/48/2024-25/Consultant **Date: 28.10.2024**

Union Bank of India invites sealed bids for the subject works. For full details and tender please log on to Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.co.in** & govt. portal **www.eprocure.gov.in**. Last date for submission of sealed bids is 3:00 p.m. on 19.11.2024 at Bank's CO Annexe, Mangaluru.

Date: 28.10.2024 **Chief Manager**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Mrs. Mubeen Khatoon wife of Late Zabiulla Khan and others are absolute owners of the Schedule Property hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client **M/s Motherland Developers** have negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule Property situated at Thigala Chowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, from the above said respective absolute owners. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, GPA, transfer, lease deed, BDA allotment, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office at No.S No 113/1,1st floor, opp TISB School, TC Halli, Dommasandra, Varthur, Bangalore-562125, within 15 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

Item No.01
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey Number 64/1 measuring to an extent of 10 Guntas, situated at Thigalachowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Aanekal Taluk, and Bangalore Urban District and bounded on:
East by : Lake; West by : Road;
North by: Remaining land in Survey No 64/1; South by: Survey No 64/3

Item No.02
All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey Number 64/3 (Old Sy No 64/2) measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 28 Guntas, situated at Thigalachowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and Bangalore Urban District and bounded on:
East by : Lake; West by : Road; North by: Survey No 64/1; South by: Survey No 64/2.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 28.10.2024
Sd/-
Gana M T. Advocate,
No 305, Pariwar Passion Apartment, 5th cross, 5th Main, Noble Residency Road, Doddakammahalli, Off Bannerghatta Road Bangalore-560076
Mob: 9480774446

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	46989410000589 46989630000764 & 46989800000058	1) Mr. Narasappa N, 2) Mrs. Kanthamma	09.08.2024 Rs.3,56,765.90 (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Five and Ninety Paisa Only) due as on 07-08-2024	Date: 25.10.2024 Time: 04: 12 PM Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All the piece and parcel of the property bearing Katha Serial No.832, Property No.39/1, Situated at Hosahalli Village, comes within the purview of Hosahalli Grama Panchayath, Sasalu Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring East-West 30 Feet, North-South 21 Feet, totally measuring 630 Sq.feet and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** House of Rathnamma, **North by:** House of Jayamma, **South by:** House of Maheshwaramma.			

Whereas, the Borrower's/ Co-borrowers'/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken symbolic possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore Rural
Date: 28.10.2024
Sd/- Authorised Officer
For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

FLUID CONTROL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Kanjikode West, Palakkad – 678 623, Kerala, India
(Under Ministry of Heavy Industries, Govt. of India)
Phone: 0491-2566120/2566206 Fax: 0491-2566326
Email: purchase@fcriindia.com, Web: http://www.fcriindia.com

NO. PUR/FCRI/24075/GFS/2024-25
Dated 18th October 2024

TENDER NOTICE

Competitive tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / suppliers through GeM Portal for "Supply, installation, integration, testing & commissioning of **Gravimetric Primary Gas Flow Calibration Standard (GFS) & Secondary Gas Flow Standards** with establishment of overall measurement uncertainty as stated for flow from 1sccm up to 1200 slm". **Cost of Tender Form** : Rs.1180/- (by NEFT in favour of Fluid Control Research Institute, payable at Palakkad). **EMD** : Rs.1,00,000/-

The Tender Form can be obtained from GeM Portal/FCRI Website **www.fcriindia.com/tenders**. Participation on Tender through GeM Portal only. **Last date for receipt of Tender** : 18th November 2024

Sd/-
Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, Sri. S. SANDEEP, S/o. Shantha Kumar is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from its lawful owner, Sri. H. G. Manjunath Dev, S/o. H.Y. Gurusidhaiah, aged about 70 years, residing at "Sambrudhi", No.120, 4th Main, 5th 'A' Cross, Vidyasiri Layout, Nagarabhavi, Bengaluru.

Any person/s having any claim, right, title or interest in respect of the Schedule Property, are hereby requested to write to the undersigned with the documentary proof **within 14 days** from this date, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such claim exists and if it existed, the Claimant has relinquished such claim and /or waived their right to exercise such claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No. E-1, Khatha No. 152/1, formed in converted lands in Survey No. 10/6, 10/7 and 10/8 situated at Sonnathammanahalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, measuring East to West 65 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 2600 Sq.Ft and bounded on the **East by:** Road, **West by:** Site No. F-4, **North by:** Site No. D-3, **South by:** Site No. E-2

SUHITH .S, Advocate
having Office at No.51, 2nd Floor, 1st Main Road, Near Punjab National Bank, Anandnagar, Bengaluru-560024.
Email: suhithgowda@gmail.com
Mob: 9945100117

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Possession Notice (For Immovable Property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **IIFL Home Finance Limited** (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL-HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower/Co-Borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has **taken possession** of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **IIFL HFL** for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon."The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, If the borrower clears the dues of the **"IIFL HFL"** together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by **"IIFL HFL"** and no further step shall be taken by **"IIFL HFL"** for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)	Description of the Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Total Out standing Dues	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. M Abdul Jameel, Mrs. Farhath Unnisa, Mrs. Syeda Sadiqa **(Prospect No. 965682)**	All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Khaneshumari Nos. 826/628+1521/2154+1520/215 6 & 2066 ,1519/2156/2066, 828/1519/2156/2066, situated at Nalbandwadi Mohalla Ramanagar Town - 562159, Karnataka. Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.):Property Type: Land_Area, Carpet_Area, Built_Up_Area Property Area: 2601.00, 2819.20, 3524.00. Bounded By:North: Road, South: Property of Mr. Waheed, East: Property of Mr. Yusuf, West: Road & Chamanshahwali Dargah	**Rs.7,68,077/-** (Rupees Seven Lakh Sixty Eight Thousand and Seventy Seven Only)	14-05-2024	24-10-2024

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office: `SOMAMERIT', No.9, Ground Floor, Venkataswamy Naidu Street, Taskar Town, Shivajinagar, Bangalore 560051or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.**

Place: Bangalore , Date: 28-10-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.

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BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North), 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	North -2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/1515/ 2024-25 D: 22.10.2024 (Reserved for SC Category) (Call-2)	1.	₹ 5,45,090/- ₹ 6,900/-	11.11.2024 upto 3:00 pm	12.11.2024 after 4:00 pm
2.		BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/ 1516/2024-25 Date: 22.10.2024 (Call-2)	2.	₹ 4,11,766/- ₹ 10,300/-		
3.		BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/1517/ 2024-25 D: 22.10.2024 (Reserved for ST Category) (Call-2)	3.	₹ 6,95,636/- ₹ 8,700/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)

4.	North East	BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/ 2234/2024-25 D: 24.10.2024 (Reserved For SC Category)	4.	₹ 79,44,456/- ₹ 79,500/-	15.11.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs	19.11.2024 after 16:00 Hrs
5.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/ 2242/2024-25 D: 24.10.2024 (Reserved For SC Category)	5.	₹ 56,67,473/- ₹ 56,700/-		
6.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2236/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	6.	₹ 56,94,940/- ₹ 1,13,900/-		
7.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2240/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	7.	₹ 67,69,991/- ₹ 1,35,400/-		
8.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2230/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	8.	₹ 74,63,294/- ₹ 1,49,300/-		
9.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2224/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	9.	₹ 67,91,104/- ₹ 1,35,900/-		
10.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2226/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	10.	₹ 76,34,735/- ₹ 1,52,700/-		
11.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2232/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	11.	₹ 58,61,523/- ₹ 1,17,300/-		
12.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2228/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	12.	₹ 79,12,958/- ₹ 1,58,300/-		
13.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/ 2238/2024-25 D: 24.10.2024 (Reserved For ST Category)	13.	₹ 76,72,373/- ₹ 76,800/-		
14.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO/PB/ 2244/2024-25 D: 24.10.2024 (Reserved For SC Category)	14.	₹ 79,90,017/- ₹ 80,000/-		
15.		BWSSB/EE(NE)/TO /PB/2246/2024-25 Date: 24.10.2024	15.	₹ 60,87,207/- ₹ 1,21,800/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North East)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours. DIPR/SI/2755/2024-25

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No. 10/1,11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore -560071

E-AUCTION NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE THROUGH E-AUCTION UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT (SARFAESI ACT) 2002, READ WITH PROVISO RULE 8(6) & 9 OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

The undersigned as authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has taken possession of the following property in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the SARFAESI ACT. The Borrower in particular and public at large are informed that online auction (e-auction)of the mortgage property in the below mentioned account for realisation of dues of the Bank will be held on **" AS IS WHERE IS BASIS " and " AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** on the date as prescribed as here under.

Sl. No.	Loan Account Number	Name of Original Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor	Date of 13-2 Notice	Date of Possession	Present Outstanding balance as on 25.10.2024	Date & Time of Inspection of the property	Reserve Price in INR	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in INR	Date and Time of E-Auction	Last date TIME & Place for submission of Bid
1	32909630000421	1) Mr. R M Srinivasa, 2) Mrs. Muniyamma	08.02.2024	17.08.2024	Rs.6,81,197.33 (Rupees Six Lakh Eighty One Thousand One Hundred Ninety Seven and Thirty Three Paisa Only)	12.11.2024 Time 9:30 AM to 05:00 PM	Rs.5,67,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Only)	Rs.56,700/- (Rupees Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Only)	18.11.2024 @ 02:00 PM	16.11.2024 Till 5.00 PM Jana Small Finance Bank Ltd., The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 &12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.
	Details of Secured Assets: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing portion of Property No.93/94C/44/2, Khatha ID No.150300401400200114, Situated at Ralakunte Village, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Presently comes under the limits of Ittasandra Village Panchayath and **Bounded on the: East by:** Vacant Site, **West by:** Vacant Site, **North by:** Vacant Site, **South by:** Road. Measuring East to West 9.144 Mtr and North to South: 12.192 Mtr, in all measuring 111.48 Sq.mtr.									

The properties are being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" & "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** and the E-Auction will be conducted 'On Line'. The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/S. 4 Closure at the web portal https://bankauctions.in & www.foreclosureindia.com. For more information and For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact **M/S. 4 Closure; Contact Mr. M Srinivasulru Contact Number: 8142000809. Email id: info@bankauctions.in/srinivas@bankauctions.in.**

For further details on terms and conditions to take part in e-auction proceedings and any for any query relating to property please contact Jana Small Finance Bank authorized officers **Mr. Ranjan Naik (Mob. No.6362952653), Mr. Umesh (Mob. No.8050149617) & Mrs. Syeda (Mob. No.7400445147).** To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there are no encumbrances on the properties. However the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property put on prior to submitting their bid. No conditional bid will be accepted. This is also a notice to the above named borrowers/Guarantor's/Mortgagors about e-auction scheduled for the mortgaged properties. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of auction, failing which the property will be sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Date: 28.10.2024, Place: Bangalore Rural **Sd/- Authorized Officer, Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

October worst month for D-Street: What should investors do?

Experts suggest staying invested in markets as long-term fundamentals remain strong, and they believe that the current phase is only a temporary setback

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

INDIA'S equity market benchmarks, the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty50, have dropped approximately 8% from their all-time highs in just a month, sparking panic among millions of investors unaccustomed to such a sharp correction. The downturn isn't limited to the main indices. Over the past month, small- and mid-cap indices have also plunged by more than 8% due to concerns over high valuations, with individual stocks in these segments falling by 20-30%.

Data shows that the market capitalisation of all BSE-listed firms has declined from around ₹479 lakh crore to ₹438 lakh crore as of Friday's close, wiping out ₹41 lakh crore in investor wealth in one month.

Varun Kumar, a 35-year-old lawyer from Gurugram, has invested ₹30 lakh in defence, shipbuilding, and PSU stocks three months ago, because they were hitting new highs and experts were bullish. "Now my portfolio is down nearly 30%, and I'm thinking of cutting my losses and exiting the market," he said. Shruti Sharma, a 26-year-old IT professional from Bengaluru, is also concerned as she invested heavily in mid-cap and small-cap schemes. "My portfolio has been declining for weeks, and I am now considering selling and moving to lower-risk assets," she said.

With no immediate signs of a strong rebound, many investors like Kumar and Sharma are considering booking losses to avoid further declines. They feel the post-pandemic bull run may be over, and recent purchases have proven costly.

However, some see this correction as an opportunity to "buy the dip." Market experts advise staying invested, as long-term fundamentals remain strong, and view the current phase as a temporary setback. "For the short term, continue with your Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) and hold your current investments as per your asset allocation. In the medium term, start buying high-quality stocks that were previously too expensive. Stagger your purchases and boost your SIPs with lump sums during market weakness," said Vikaas Sachdeva, MD of Shriram Alternate. Sachdeva also suggested sticking to quality stocks, especially in sectors like defence and PSUs, which may take longer to recover due to their high valuations and widespread retail investment.

Madhu Nair, CEO of Union Mutual Fund said that we overestimate what markets can do in short term and underestimate what it can do in long term. He also said that investors should stick to their plan as the underlying fund portfolios are any way monitored by experts whose job is to make the changes if required.

Utkarsh Sinha, MD of Bexley Advisors, emphasised the importance of staying invested for long-term returns. "Retail investors often buy during market highs and sell during lows. The current dip presents a buying opportunity, but instead of picking individual stocks, consider equity-weighted or index funds," he said.

Why market is falling?

Markets have been declining for four consecutive weeks, with the Nifty and Sensex falling over 2.5% last week, closing near their weekly lows at 24,180.80 and 79,402.29, respectively. The broader market saw midcap and small-cap indices tumble around 6%. This downturn is largely driven by heavy selling by foreign portfolio investors, who have sold ₹102,931 crore in equities through October 24—the highest-ever monthly outflow in India's capital markets. Experts suggest FPIs are selling Indian stocks, seen as overvalued, in favour of cheaper Chinese stocks. Hong Kong's Hang Seng is trading at 9.4 times forward earnings, while the Shanghai Composite Index trades at 12 times, compared to Nifty50's 20.6 times.

"The current wave of FPI selling was triggered by Chinese stimulus measures and the relative cheapness of Chinese stocks. India's elevated valuations made it an attractive target for FPI selling," said VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services.

Vijayakumar added that continued FPI selling is likely in the near term due to weak market sentiment, the escalation of tensions in the Middle East, and uncertainty around the US presidential election. Weak earnings from top Indian companies are adding to the market's woes. Shares of IndusInd Bank plunged 19% on Friday after reporting a 40% drop in Q2FY25 net profit. Shares of other major companies, including Bajaj Auto, Nestle and HUL also saw sharp declines following disappointing quarterly results.

Recovery may take time

Analysts caution that the market's recovery may not be swift, even though domestic investors continue to pour money into equities. Global brokerage Goldman Sachs recently downgraded India from "overweight" to "neutral" in its Asia/emerging market allocations, citing slower economic growth and corporate profits.

MARKET CRASH IN OCT
Small-cap and mid-cap indices have tanked over 8% each in 1 month. Investors have lost ₹41L CR during this period
Goldman Sachs said the market could undergo a "time correction" over the next 3-6 months.
7.21% Sensex
7.63% Nifty
WHAT IS SPOOKING THE MARKET?
FII selling: FPI selling in equity through the stock exchanges this month have exceeded ₹1L CR mark, highest ever monthly outflow
Poor earnings show: Most firms have reported tepid growth in September quarter
Retail investors often buy during market highs and sell during lows. The current dip presents a buying opportunity, but instead of picking individual stocks, consider equity-weighted or index funds
Utkarsh Sinha, MD of Bexley Advisors

MONEY MATTERS

HOW RETIREMENT PLANNING IS TOUGH IN INDIA

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

IT is that time of the year when you are in a spending mode. You are buying something for yourself or your loved ones. You care about your family and ensure you are with them to celebrate your time together. You do that year after year. At some point in your life, you would like your children or loved ones to do the same thing for you and their families. You need to do financial planning to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from one generation to another. That must start when you are not the responsible one.

When young and independent for the first time, you are keen to explore the world. There is barely any time to think about financial planning or retirement. A real estate firm Anarock survey for the industry body FICCI showed that the two younger generations, Gen Z and Millennials (People born after 1980), barely think about retirement planning. There is very little interest in the subject among the young. That is perhaps a systemic problem in India.

In the 80s and 90s or even 2000s, there were fewer people under the age of 30 or 40 who were wealthy. However, India today boasts the highest number of billionaires after the United States. There is a surge in entrepreneurship and the gig economy that is putting money into the hands of people much earlier than the previous generations. Tax-friendly policies and easier tax compliance processes mean more people are filing returns and paying taxes than ever. The government's personal tax collection is higher than corporate taxes for the first time. More people are filing returns as professionals. Retirement planning among gig economy professionals like actors, creative support staff or those employed in sports and related events is virtually non-existent due to the lumpy nature of their income.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

When you talk about retirement planning, a thumb rule is that you can withdraw 4% of your savings without affecting the future growth of their value. However, a study published earlier this year and quoted in the latest National Stock Exchange monthly bulletin shows that it is hard for Indian retirees.

Considering inflation over 20 to 25 years and the conservative nature of retirement portfolios skewed towards fixed deposits, retirees in India can withdraw much less than 3.5% of their savings yearly. That means you need to do two things. You need to start retirement planning early and ensure a meaningful asset allocation to ensure that you can beat inflation and have enough resources to pay for 20-25 years of retirement expenses.

There is a lot of merit in making retirement planning a key focus area for the government. The current government schemes of defined benefits have fiscal implications and cannot be overextended. The National Pension Scheme's success and increased adoption show interest in defined contribution schemes that offer market returns. The government should consider making pension income tax-free for senior citizens. Everything that individuals take out as retirement is long gestation money. That money should not be taxed into the hands of the individual. Tax benefits should apply to retirement savings withdrawn 20 years or later. That would provide an incentive for everyone to start retirement planning early.

What can you do

After the festive season, when you take stock of your financial situation, you must take steps for your life after work. Since India's population is primarily young, the government will take time to focus on retirement planning. It will become a national issue only when more retirees have little or no social security.

You cannot wait for the government to provide pensions or tax benefits. These are matters of political and fiscal considerations. When you have surplus money, you should pay your future self-first. Engage a professional financial advisor to help you with appropriate asset allocation. If you are familiar with equity markets, you must ensure that your retirement money is at work for a long time. You can invest directly or indirectly through mutual funds and pension funds.

MONEY-WISE

THIS DIWALI, SECURE YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com
(Views expressed here are personal)

AS one with an avid interest in Investor Psychology, it is interesting to note that even those that plan things meticulously, often fail to plan for the only thing that is inevitable (death) after one is born in this world. Leave alone a clear cut Will that details the assets they hold and whom they wish to bequeath it to, most do not even have any Life Insurance.

Those who have it, rarely bother to top-up their cover, thus allowing time to render their initial cover insignificant.

As it is, Life Insurance penetration in India is dismally low at less than 5% and what is more disappointing is that more than half among those, are under-insured. A primary reason for underinsurance among the few that have Life Insurance is the Indian obsession with deriving 'returns' for any money expended. Many just cannot reconcile to the fact that after their term of Life Cover ends at a specified age, they will not get any pecuniary benefit or returns for the premium paid. Now, if one starts looking at pure (term) Life Insurance as an 'Investment', then the only way to maximize returns would be to hope to die soon after taking a policy, before the next premium becomes payable. The Return on Investment in such a case would be phenomenal !!!

On a more serious note, while many recognize the emotional turmoil and void left behind by a death in a family, most still prefer to turn a blind eye to the huge financial void too that it often also leaves behind. I have seen far too many cases of families used to leading a very comfortable, if not luxurious life, suddenly finding their world turning upside down following the death of an uninsured or under-insured bread-winner.

It is heart-breaking even from a distance, to see the way the dreams and aspirations of the children especially, in such families come crashing down. It is thus prudent for everyone who has even a single financial dependent to not just insure, but adequately insure themselves. How one arrives at the figure of 'adequate' insurance to ensure that every dream one has for loved ones is met, is not something that can be captured merely with an arithmetical calculation as many websites and 'experts' profess.

It requires a detailed evaluation session with one's Advisor who can take a holistic view of where exactly one stands with their current investments and what it would cost 'financially' to replace one, in the event of an untimely exit. A no frills Insurance Term Plan will usually serve the objective of pure Life Insurance, most cost-effectively. And for those that live in the big cities and towns especially, it is worth looking at a Critical Illness cover top up too.

Rest assured, if one remains healthy and stays on after adequately insuring oneself, nobody will complain. But, do not make the mistake of not insuring or under-insuring yourself. It could make all the difference to not just the lifestyle, but also the dreams and aspirations of one's loved ones.

So, this Diwali, act to secure your family's future.

Karnataka's proposal will hit beer industry very hard: Brewers Association

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government's proposed amendments to reclassification of beer will hit the beer industry in the state very hard, said the Brewers Association of India (BAI), which represents the country's largest beer makers. Also, it has proposed hike in minimum beer price.

Last month, the Karnataka government proposed amendments to restructuring of taxes as well as reclassification of beer asking manufacturers to declare the sugar content in the beer and limit the addition of sugar to 25% in beer.

Brewers in Karnataka have already objected to these proposals, and on Sunday, the BAI said the proposed amendments would work against both the government and the industry. Vinod Giri, the Director general of the BAI said, "Beer has no sugar in it. There is a definition of beer set by the FSSAI which is followed by all states and we don't see the need to change them by one state."

He said the larger concern is regarding putting it up on the label. "Beer labels are already cluttered with so much statutory information and warnings. Adding more information, especially when it is not even relevant, will just make them more cluttered and unappealing," he added. Also, on the proposed hike in minimum beer price of beer, he said, if implemented, it would be the third increase in tax on beer in the last 15 months. The draft notification proposes to increase the excise duty on strong beer by 100% to ₹20 per bulk litre, increases the minimum billing price for beer in the state to ₹300 per case. In its letter to the government, the association states that the taxes on beer have already been increased twice in the last one year.

Banks' unsecured loans grow at double-digit rate

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

DESPITE persistent concerns raised by the banking regulator, the unsecured retail loan portfolios of banks have been growing but at a calibrated rate, early second quarter bank results show.

HDFC Bank, the largest private sector bank, reported a 10% growth in the unsecured loan portfolio in the September quarter. ICICI Bank, the second largest private sector bank, posted 17% growth in personal loans while 28% growth in credit card loans. Kotak Mahindra Bank saw its personal and consumer durables loan growing at 17%, while credit card loans grew at 15%. Personal loan disbursal by Yes Bank contracted by 5% even though credit card loans surged by 48.6%. For Yes Bank, personal loans account for 15% of its total advances, while credit cards are just 6% of the loan portfolio.

HDFC Bank CFO Srinivasan Vaidyanathan in an analyst call said that in the recent year, the bank slowed the unsecured loan to a rate of growth, which is 10%.

Personal loans

Among PSU banks, Bank of Baroda reported a 25% year-on-year growth in personal loan. For the bank, personal loans account for around 13.8% of total advances in the second quarter compared to 13.22% in the year-ago period.

"In the recent time periods, 1 to 2 quarters this year, we slowed it down to between 9% and 10% rate of growth. And if you look at the year before, we grew at 19%..." he said. Ashok Vaswani, CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said in an analyst call that the bank's unsecured retail business 'has dipped a little bit to a shy of over 11%. He admitted that in the credit card business, they have also seen some level of credit stress due to the overleveraging of certain kinds of customers. Among PSU banks, Bank of Baroda reported a 25% year-on-year growth in personal loan.

For the bank, personal loans account for around 13.8% of total advances in the second quarter compared to 13.22% in the year-ago period. The third quarter may, however, see a strong growth in unsecured lending by banks due to the festive season.

According to Arjun Chowdhry, group executive for retail lending, the festive months have not seen any signs of slowdown in spending. "We are seeing prudent spending remaining in place, particularly on cards. On the unsecured book, there is growth, but that remains calibrated, as you would have seen across the industry," said Chowdhry.

2.16 lakh jobs recorded this festive season across ecomm, logistics: apna.co

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ Bengaluru

JOBS and professional networking platform, apna.co, has reported 2.16 lakh job postings this festive season, a 20% increase compared to 1.8 lakh job postings reported last year. This year's festive season saw a significant rise in hiring across key sectors like logistics, e-commerce, retail, and hospitality. Also, this year's festive season was particularly important for businesses looking to rebound after a slowdown in consumer spending during the summer and election periods, said the platform.

The rapid expansion of the quick commerce industry contributed to this hiring momentum. Among the sectors, logistics and operations experienced the highest growth, with a 70% increase in job postings. Retail and e-commerce followed with a 30% rise, while the restaurant and hospitality sector grew by 25%. Logistics and mobility leaders like Rapido, Delhivery, Ekart, and Shiprocket have posted over 30,000 openings for roles such as Warehouse Managers, Logistics Associates, Inventory Managers, and Delivery Drivers.

The retail and e-commerce sector is also expanding, adding 18,000 roles, including Category Growth Managers, Sales Associates, and Customer Support Managers to enhance consumer experience. In hospitality, 14,000 jobs have opened for positions like Restaurant Managers, Front Office Staff, and Administrative Personnel. Tier-2 and tier-3 cities are also experiencing a significant rise in job opportunities. While tier-1 cities have seen a 20% increase in job postings, the demand in tier-2 and tier-3 cities is even more notable, it noted.Nirmit Parikh, Founder & CEO of Apna.co, said, "This year was crucial for our employer partners, who anticipated a 20-25% increase in consumer demand."

IPL: Dhoni hints at continuing as player

Even as the deadline for IPL retentions is coming close, MS Dhoni hinting at continuing as a player has raised hopes for Chennai Super Kings. Speaking at a promotional event in Goa, Dhoni said: "I just want to enjoy whatever last few years of cricket I am able to play." However, this doesn't confirm anything. One will have to wait and see what the official confirmation has to say over the next few days.

FIRING THE FIRST SHOT

How New Zealand took down India in their own backyard to end the winning streak in Pune

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Pune

DURING the middle of the Tom Latham press conference post the second Test at Pune, the only travelling New Zealand journalist had a request. He got up and performed a 20-second 'war dance' before proceeding to thank the Kiwi skipper for what his side and he managed to achieve over the last two Tests.

The Black Caps had been touring India for 69 years and have almost always gone back empty-handed. For the first time in their history, they beat the beast away from home. How did they do it? Latham, appointed as skipper following a disappointing 0-2 reverse at Sri Lanka last month, gathered his troops just before they departed. They wanted to try and do something different to the Indian bowlers, the spinners especially. "Fire the first shot," he said at the press conference in Pune. He repeated that phrase a few times. Mitchell Santner had used the exact same phrase after he had picked up a seven-wicket haul on Day Two of the Test.

What did he mean 'by firing the first shot'? Trying to bat with aggression, as a strategy, isn't reinventing the wheel. It's existed for as old as time. In fact, earlier in 2024, when England had come to these shores, they wanted to do the exact same thing. They had told everyone who had bothered to listen. The Indian spinners, slowly but surely, picked the batters. By the time the fifth Test had ended, the efficiency of their batters had reduced to the level of raffle-winners.

The visitors didn't focus on hitting every ball. They, instead, had a basic starting point. Not block every ball, show intent whenever possible

New Zealand became the first team to win a Test series in India since 2012 | PTI

and try to put pressure on the spinners. In a match scenario, what would this translate to? Be proactive, remove close-in fielders by scoring a few boundaries before you are able to rotate strike comfortably and seeing how their spinners bowl when the field is spread out.

The evidence after the first two Tests is striking (and worrying if you are an Indian fan). In the last six New Zealand tours to India from 1999 to 2021, their most proactive tour — in terms of RPO — had come in 2012 when they had managed to go at a shade of over 3. In 2024? 3.82. You extrapolate that to over a day's play, it's a difference of over 60 runs.

Take the case of the 2021 outfit. Over four innings, they had scored at a rate of 2.12 runs per over. In that entire series, they had managed only two sixes and 79 fours. This time? 109 fours and 18 sixes.

Santner, who hit two sixes in his innings of 33 in the first innings at Pune, explained the shift from 'blocking everything in previous tours' to 'firing the first shot and see what happens'. "We know how challenging it can be in these conditions," he said. "We have seen India squeeze teams a lot of times. What's pleasing with the bat was seeing the guys fire some shots, go out, play some sweeps and take on the bowlers. We know as a bowler if we see batters use their feet or going back or sweeping, it can upset your length a little bit. In the past, we have come here and just block everything and eventually one's got your name on it. We kind of spoke about that."

It's one of the reasons why the hosts' spinners never truly had any sort of control or the kind of stranglehold you normally see in Tests in India. The visitors didn't allow them. They kept milking them for runs across all parts of the ground. While some of this is due to circumstances -- there's only so much you can attack after being bowled out for 46 -- this was a plan concocted in Wellington before the team left. "Hopefully we can go over there and play with a bit of freedom, with no fear and try to take it to them," he had said. "We have seen teams That have done well there in the past have been quite aggressive towards them, especially with the bat. They have looked to play a few shots but also put them under pressure, which is really important."

After executing this plan to perfection, the 32-year-old was grinning from ear to ear. "We wanted to fire a shot, be the one that puts India under a bit of pressure (and) what that may look like from a bowling point of view or a batting point of view. I certainly think we have done that," the southpaw said. "The way we played in this game with the bat was really important. Time wasn't necessarily an issue but it was runs. You saw the way we played yesterday (Friday), be a bit more positive, be a bit more attacking to get the sweepers out so that rotating strike is a bit more easier. From a bowling point of view, we were talking about keeping things simple, bowl our best ball time and time again and I think the surfaces have offered enough."

Irrespective of what happens in Mumbai, the visitors have provided a bit of blueprint for teams coming to India. If the others have a similar impact, the hosts may face a bigger challenge.

NZ'S LAST SEVEN TOURS TO INDIA

Year	RPO	Avg/wkt
2024	3.82	32.06
2021	2.12	17.69
2016	2.98	22.51
2012	3.07	23.40
2010	3.01	33.61
2003	2.84	56.45
1999	2.27	29.32

4s & 6s scored by NZ in the last two trips

Year	4s	6s
2021	79	2
2024	109	18

INDIA A TOUR OF AUS

Time for Test hopefuls to make a mark Down Under

GOMESH S @Chennai

IN the 48 hours since their defeat to New Zealand in Pune, much has been said about India being in transition and the historic home streak that has finally come to an end.

The players, captain and team management might still be processing the loss while looking for a quick turnaround in Mumbai on Friday. But before they take the field at the Wankhede Stadium, a different group of players will be doing everything in their power to grab some attention halfway across the world.

The India A squad, which already reached Australia for the two unofficial Tests, will play their first match beginning Thursday. And more than ever before, this A-series could mark a significant point in Indian Test cricket going forward. For the first time in a while, a number of players from India A have a realistic chance of making it to the senior side. It is not that the past A tours have not been the case, but in the last decade, the crux of India's batting has been packed in such a way that it has been close to impossible for anyone to break in.

This time, however, that is not the case. Rohit Sharma is 37, and Virat Kohli is 35. Although one can safely assume that chances of them being dropped in the next 12 months are close to nil, their record in the past year has been below-par. And where they are in their career would mean the batters on this tour have a chance at making a case for themselves.

Take Abhimanyu Easwaran for example. The Bengal batter has been piling on

India A players who will be playing two unofficial Tests in Australia | INSTAGRAM

SQUAD: Ruturaj Gaikwad (C), Abhimanyu Easwaran (VC), Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, Baba Indrajith, Ishan Kishan (WK), Abishek Porel (WK), Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Yash Dayal, Navdeep Saini, Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian

runs for years, and now, the India call-up has come as he was included in the squad for the Australia tour as a back-up opener. Then there is B Sai Sudharsan. The left-hander has made runs wherever he went and has already played for India in both the white-ball formats. Ruturaj Gaikwad, another opener who could throw his hat in the ring, too would be itching to have a go. There is Devdutt Padikkal. He played for India in the Dharamsala Test against England, but hasn't been able to secure his spot. The middle-order is even harder to get in and he knows it all too well. And so does B Indrajith who kept toiling in the domestic circuit and finally got a deserving call-up. And it doesn't stop there.

On his comeback trail, wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan will be motivated to prove a point. He is competing with not just one but two keepers in Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel. Even as Washington Sundar seems to be the second-choice offie at this point, Tanush Kotian has impressed every chance he has got. So has left-arm spinner Manav Suthar. And of course, Nitish Kumar Reddy will be the big project of pace-bowling all-rounder for India in the longest format.

For every player in the senior side, every spot in the playing XI, there is a player who is auditioning as a back-up. And it is a good thing. It only means that the system is working as it has for years. To give an example, when India A team toured Australia in July 2014, the likes of KL Rahul (he would make a Test debut in Melbourne months down the line) and Jasprit Bumrah (he took a fifer on his first-ever red-ball outing in Australia) were a part of the contingent.

Ten years on, Indian cricket is at a similar point where they will need the next batch of players to come in seamlessly. Even as the home streak had ended, it could also mark the beginning of a new chapter as it did a decade ago. And the first few pages could be the A-series Down Under.

EXPRESS READ

Paddler Batra's campaign ends

NEW DELHI: Manika Batra crashed out of the WTT Champions after a quarterfinal straight game defeat against China's Qian Tianyi in Montpellier, France. The Indian, a world No. 30, went down to Tianyi 8-11, 8-11, 10-12 on Saturday. The first Indian to enter the WTT quarterfinals, Batra had shocked world number 14 Bernadette Szocs of Romania 11-9, 6-11, 13-11, 11-9 to enter the last eight.

India para-shuttlers pocket 24 medals

TOKYO: Sivarajan Solaimalai and Sukant Kadam delivered standout performances, helping India win 24 medals at the Japan Para-Badminton International. India won six gold, nine silver and as many bronze. Sivarajan enjoyed a double victory, clinching gold in the men's singles SH6 class and partnering with Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy to win the top prize in doubles.

WR in half-marathon for Ethiopian runner

VALENCIA (SPAIN): Ethiopian runner Yomif Kejelcha made every second count, breaking the men's half-marathon record by just a second Sunday. Kejelcha finished strongly in the Spanish city of Valencia to set a time of 57 minutes & 30 seconds, knocking a single second off the record set in 2021 by Ugandan runner Jacob Kiplimo. Kejelcha is a former world championship silver medalist in the 10,000 meters.

Rizwan to lead Pak in T20Is and ODIs

LAHORE: Wicketkeeper-batter Muhammad Rizwan was on Sunday named Pakistan's ODI and T20 captain, replacing Babar Azam, as the selectors announced the squads for the white-ball tours of Australia and Zimbabwe beginning November 4. Salman Ali Agha was made vice-captain for all future ODIs and T20Is. Pakistan will play three ODIs and as many T20Is in their Australia tour.

Salah late strike helps Liverpool hold Arsenal

AGENCIES @ London

MOHAMED Salah struck nine minutes from time as Liverpool twice came from behind to draw 2-2 against Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday. A point leaves Arsenal five points adrift of leaders Manchester City and four behind second-placed Liverpool.

Earlier, West Ham piled more pressure on beleaguered Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag with a dramatic 2-1 win as Cole Palmer inspired Chelsea to a victory by the same scoreline over Newcastle. Tottenham were beaten 1-0 at Crystal Palace, who picked up their first win of the season.

Ten Hag was left to rue a familiar lack of ruthlessness as United's fourth league defeat in nine games will spark further speculation on how long he will be given to turn the Red Devils' fortunes around. The visitors should have been out of sight by half-time at the London Stadium. Alejandro Garnacho hit the woodwork inside two minutes and Edson Alvarez also

Liverpool's Mo Salah celebrates scoring his team's second goal against Arsenal | AFP

headed off his own crossbar. But it was Diogo Dalot who missed the biggest chance when the Portuguese international somehow fired over with the goal gaping after rounding Lukasz Fabianski.

Under-fire West Ham boss Julen Lopetegui showed his disgust with the Hammers' first-half display by making three substitutions at the break. Crysencio Summerville was one of those introduced and he slid in to open the scoring against the run of play on 74 minutes. Casemiro brought United level nine minutes from time with a header from point-blank range. But there was late drama when VAR intervened for a foul on Danny Ings by Matthijs de Ligt. Jarrod Bowen smashed in the resulting spot-kick to take West Ham above United, who sink to 14th in the table. **Results:** Chelsea 2-1 Newcastle; Crystal Palace 1-0 Tottenham; West Ham 2-1 Manchester United; Arsenal 2-2 Liverpool.

Barcelona rout Real 4-0

BARCELONA: Robert Lewandowski scored twice and Lamine Yamal piled on to ruin Kylian Mbapp"s first clasico as Barcelona routed Real Madrid 4-0. The lopsided victory in Spain's capital ended the host's unbeaten run in La Liga at 42 games, one shy of Barcelona's record streak in 2017-18. Carlo Ancelotti's side suffered its first loss since Sept. 23 last year. And what a loss it was. Lewandowski got the visitors going from a superb pass by Barcelona's latest youth talent Marc Casad' in the 54th minute and rose up to head in a fine header three minutes later to silence Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Yamal made it a rout in the 77th when the teenage phenom rifled a shot from an angle over goalkeeper Andriy Lunin. That goal made him the youngest scorer in a clasico.

Yadav's efforts in vain as White Ferns level series

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

DESPITE Radha Yadav's career-best bowling figures and highest score in the format, New Zealand beat India by 76 runs to level the three-match series in Ahmedabad on Sunday. With that, Sophie Devine's side consolidated their position in the ICC Women's Championship adding two points to their tally.

Earlier, the opening pair of Suzie Bates and Georgia Plimmer gave visitors a solid opening stand of 87 runs before Yadav took a diving catch to end the partnership. India kept chipping in with wickets as debutant Priya Mishra's presence of mind ran Lauren Down out at the non-strikers' end. Devine scored her second ODI half-century against India. New Zealand accelerated in the death overs and took the total past 250. With a target of 260 to seal the series, India lost opener Smriti Mandhana in the first over and wickets kept falling.

Radha Yadav | SPORTZPICS

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur and Jemimah Rodrigues tried to revitalise the inning with the partnership, but those efforts did not last long. It looked like New Zealand were close to bowling India out early, but Yadav and Saima Thakor's 70-run partnership delayed the inevitable as the visitors recorded a dominant win. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 259/9 in 50 ovs (Devine 79, Bates 58; Yadav 4/69) **bt** India 183 all out in 47.1 ovs (Yadav 48, Kaur 24; Devine 3/27).

RANJI TROPHY

Day 2 play washed out despite desperate attempts

ENS/AGENCIES @ Chennai

THE second day of the Group C Ranji Trophy match between Bihar and Karnataka at the Moin-ul-Haq Stadium, Patna was washed out on Sunday due to a wet outfield following incessant rain overnight. Earlier, spinners accounted for seven wickets as the visitors bowled out Bihar for 143 in their first essay on Day 1. The Karnataka openers then batted for three overs, scoring 16, before the day was called off due to bad light.

Kerala reduced to 51/4

KOLKATA: After the opening day was washed out due to rain resulting from Cyclone Dana, only 15.1 overs were possible on Day 2 of the contest between Bengal and Kerala here at Jadavpur University Campus 2nd Ground. The visitors, who were invited to bat, were in trouble after losing four wickets for a paltry 51 runs. Pacer Ishan Porel claimed three wickets to give the hosts an edge.

Advantage Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: A century by Tanmay Agarwal followed by four half-centuries helped hosts Hyderabad declared their first innings at a mammoth total of 536/8 in their match against Puducherry. Tanmay Agarwal slammed 173 while Abirath Reddy (68), Rohit Rayudu (84), Kodimela Himateja (60) and Tanay Thyagarajan (53 not out) hit a fifty each. Hyderabad then reduced Puducherry to 24/2.

Andhra eye lead

VISAKHAPATNAM: Andhra lower-order batters failed to show resistance as the team was bundled out for 344 by Himachal Pradesh on Day 2. Resuming at 295/6, the hosts lost remaining wickets inside 13 overs. KV Sasikanth, however, made sure Andhra's hope of taking first-innings lead remains intact as he claimed three wickets to reduce Himachal Pradesh to 198/4.

SELECT SCORES

Group A: In Vadodara: Odisha 193 vs Baroda 354/6 in 107 ovs (Shivalik Sharma 96, Vishnu Solanki 98, Krunal Pandhya 88 batting; Govinda Poddar 4/96); **Group B:** In Visakhapatnam: Andhra 344 in 92.4 ovs vs Himachal Pradesh 198/4 in 65 ovs (Ankit Kalsi 53, Akash Vasisht 52 batting; KVS Sasikanth 3/50); In Puducherry: Hyderabad 536/8decl in 163 ovs (Tanmay Agarwal 173, Rohit Rayudu 84; Ankit Sharma 3/117) vs Puducherry 24/2 in 12 ovs); **Group C:** In Patna: Bihar 143 vs Karnataka 16/0 (no play on Day 2); In Kolkata: Kerala 51/4 in 15.1 ovs (Ishan Porel 3/18) vs Bengal; **Group D:** In Delhi: Assam 330 in 91.3 ovs (Sumit Ghadigaonkar 162; Harshit Rana 5/80) vs Delhi 214/6 in 62 ovs (Himmat Singh 55; Swarupam Purkayastha 3/46); In Coimbatore: Chhattisgarh 500 in 169.1 ovs (Aayush Pandey 124, Anuj Tiwary 84, Sanjeet Desai 82; Ajith Ram 4/132, Manimaran Siddharth 3/142) vs Tamil Nadu 23/1 in 8 ovs.

Baroda in control vs Odisha

VADODARA: Krunal Pandya scored an unbeaten 88, while Shivalik Sharma (96) and Vishnu Solanki (98) narrowly missed centuries as table-toppers Baroda took firm control of their match against Odisha, reaching 354 for 6 in their first innings. At stumps, Baroda extended their lead to 161 runs after dismissing Odisha for 193. Govinda Poddar took four wickets for 96 runs in his 35 overs.

Delhi trail Assam by 116 runs

NEW DELHI: Delhi's woes with the willow continued as the team struggled to 214 for six after the likes of Yash Dhull and Himmat Singh failed to convert their starts into substantial knocks in their match against Assam here on Sunday. Resuming at their overnight score of 264 for six, Assam's first innings innings ended at 330 with wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar making 162 off 237 balls. Rana ended with fine figures of 5/80. Delhi were 214/6 at stumps on day two.

Chhattisgarh post 500 vs TN

COIMBATORE: Half-centuries by Eknath Kerkar (52) and Ajay Mandal (64) came in handy for Chhattisgarh as they post 500 runs in 169.1 overs on the second day of their match against Tamil Nadu played at Sri Ramakrishna college grounds, Coimbatore. Tamil Nadu in reply were 23 for 1 in eight overs at stumps.

ISL: Odisha & Mumbai settle for 1-1 draw

ENS @Chennaii

SERGIO Lobera's return culminated in a 1-1 draw between Mumbai City FC and Odisha FC at the Mumbai Football Arena in the Indian Super League on Sunday as goals by Roy Krishna and Nikolaos Karelis resulted in both teams settling for a point each.

Lobera was the happier of the two coaches at the onset of the game, with his frontline pressing forward and inflicting pressure on the Mumbai defence. Their charge was led by Fijian forward Roy Krishna, spearheading by example and he reaped the rewards for the same in the 14th minute. Home team's Lallianzuala Chhangte's interlinking with Karelis was a treat for the home fans, and one such move brought them the equaliser in the 23rd minute.

CAT 2024 DON'T FEAR QUANT!

Here is a comprehensive guide for all those management aspirants who fear the Quants section of the Common Admission Test (CAT), put together by Ramnath Kanakadandi, Senior Course Director, T.I.M.E

No Math? No tension!

THE Quantitative Ability (QA) section is the third section in the CAT exam, administered after the Verbal Ability & Reading Comprehension (VARC) and the Data Interpretation & Logical Reasoning (DILR) sections. This section consists of questions mostly from Arithmetic and concepts like Geometry, Numbers, Algebra, Indices & Surds, and Logarithms along with a few questions from pure maths topics of Coordinate Geometry, Trigonometry, Probability, Permutations & Combinations and so on.

While the long list of topics may not be very appealing to students from non-Math backgrounds, what would put their minds at ease is the fact that the questions in this section would be from school-level syllabus, especially from the syllabus taught in Classes VI to X, including a few questions from Classes XI and XII too.

It's all about data

The world is driven by information, which, in turn, is driven by data. One needs to make use of data in business to draw inferences and thereby, decisions. It is essential that business managers have the ability to make sense of the data in businesses, which in most cases, would be number based. The importance of Quantitative Ability stems from this requirement.

digit game

Add to it the fact that one's ability with numbers also reflects their ability to use logic and thinking, and we are required to test aspiring business managers on this. Lo and behold, we have the QA as a testing area in management entrance exams. Across the world, while there are many management entrance exams, the area that gets invariably tested in all these exams is QA.

Let's look at a few numbers

1/3

The Quantitative Ability section, in the recent CATs, represented one-third of the CAT, both in terms of the time allocated to the section and the number of questions in the section.

22/66

Since CAT 2021, this section had 22 questions, of the 66 questions in total in the exam.

40 minutes

Authorities have announced that the QA section will be the third section of the exam, as has been the case for quite a few CATs now, and that it will be for a duration of 40 minutes.

How many questions from Quant this year?

WHETHER CAT 2024 will see the same number of questions or not will be known only on the day of the exam as the number of questions for CAT 2024 has not been revealed, as is the norm for every CAT of late — the number of questions will be known only during the exam and not earlier. Do note, the CAT is known to spring surprises on students — from the number of questions to the topic coverage plus the difficulty level. Though given that there have been minimal changes that we have seen in the recent CATs, unless there is a major reason like COVID in 2020, we may expect the overall pattern to remain the same as that in the previous years.

Of the 22 questions in this section, in CAT 2023, eight were short-answer questions which did not carry any negative marking for wrong answers. These are questions which needed the test takers to type the answer, which could be, in most cases, a number or a term. All the other questions were multiple-choice, with a penalty of one mark for each incorrect answer. Correct answers were given three marks, for both the question types.

Strategy that clicks

As the sections are timed individually, selective preparation — not preparing for seemingly tougher topics — is very risky, as one may end up getting questions from the areas that he/she has left out during preparation. Not attempting them and focusing on other doable questions in the exam will not work if one has time left in the section but has exhausted all doable questions. Therefore, in the last couple of weeks leading up to the exam, the students should focus on getting better with all the topics in Quant. Then, the focus should shift to concentrating on specific areas which would give them the maximum return for their time. This would help students attempt at least the easier questions from topics that they feel are difficult.

Two-pronged approach

#1 AIMCAT performance analysis

Students should have a clear understanding of their comfort level with all Quant topics. All India Mock CAT (AIMCAT) performances should be analysed topic-wise. The areas in which the students have been scoring below par and in which the scores have been fluctuating should be the areas of focus.

#2 Previous CAT paper analysis

The areas which have been consistently contributing to the CAT exam over the years should be identified and attention should be given to them.

These simple steps can be followed while preparing:

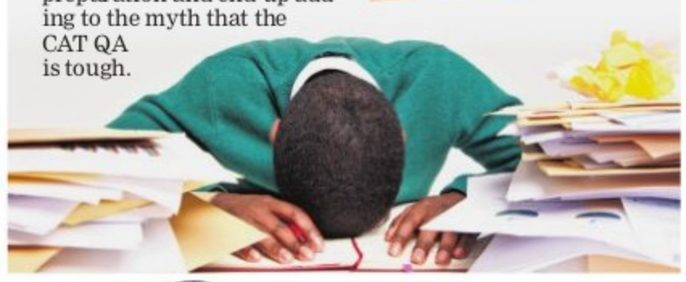
- Understand the basic concepts of the selected topic thoroughly
- Write down all the formulae and concepts related to the topic on a chart to use as a ready reckoner
- Note when a particular formula is to be used
- Solve at least 30-40 questions (CAT-level) from the topic

Tame the Tiger

THE CAT exam, in the eyes of some, is not a cat but a tiger. This is because they are under this myth that the CAT has very high-level questions. The fact is, thankfully, to the bewilderment of many, very different. The CAT QA section, as mentioned earlier, has school-level questions. While a few of these questions need deeper thinking, they are, overall, from Class X syllabus.

The marks needed in this section is not very high. To clear the 85-percentile sectional cut-off required for Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), takers of CAT 23 needed only around 11 marks out of a maximum score of 66 in the section. Even at the top-end, to score 99 percentile, the marks needed were around 24-26. That would mean getting around four questions right out of 22 to clear the sectional cut-off and getting eight to nine questions right to get to 99 percentile. Will the CAT paper have eight to nine doable questions? It has a lot more. In fact, the difficult questions are fewer in number than the doable ones. The trick lies in identifying the doable questions and getting them right without getting stuck with the difficult ones. This requires practice and correct test-taking strategy.

While the number of right answers needed to get a certain percentile may vary slightly from year to year, based on the difficulty level of that year/slot, the fact to remember is that the goal post is not alarmingly high but is much lower and reachable as well as achievable. Many students go by the myth that the CAT QA is tough and end up not even attempting the CAT. Many of those who manage to cross this barrier and attempt it do not put in the necessary preparation and end up adding to the myth that the CAT QA is tough.



VANQUISHING QUANT

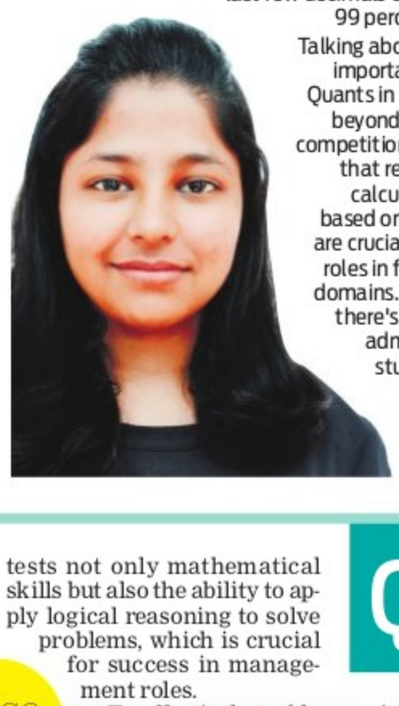
Quantitative Aptitude (QA) is the last section of the CAT exam. What are the preparation strategies? Let's hear from those who excelled in it

DR SALEHA PERWEEN, IIM Calcutta

The Quants section in CAT tests a candidate's problem-solving & logical thinking in mainly Algebra, Arithmetic, and Geometry, and even if a person is moderate in one of these and great in the other two, they can sail through (unless you have bad luck. In our slot, if I remember correctly, there were fewer geometry problems — something I was good better at).

Mastering the section requires not only a solid understanding of the concepts involved but also the ability to solve the questions quickly, even if approximately. Deduction works well here since these are Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), except for when there is NOTA (None of the Above).

I know people who were so fast in QA that they could go through the whole section three times. On the first attempt, they'd solve the easiest questions; in the second, the harder ones or the ones which required them to recollect a key shortcut and so on, and in the third, the toughest ones, which take a lot of time but help one in achieving the last few decimals of that 99 percentile.



Talking about the importance of Quants in MBA and beyond, many case studies and case competitions involve handling scenarios that require data analysis, financial calculations, and decision-making based on quantitative insights. These are crucial and test analytical skills for roles in finance, marketing, and other domains. With regards to IIM Calcutta, there's another Quant test once the admissions are completed. If the students do not clear it on their first attempt, they are required to attend classes for a few months and are given a few chances.

BHAWNA SHRADDHA, IIM Ahmedabad

Quant has often been touted to be the make-or-break section in CAT. But just like any other section, one needs a strategy to tackle it. Quoting the MBA gurus, you need to answer only half the paper to score a 99. But how do you go ahead with it? The key lies in choosing the right sections to target. Arithmetic, Algebra and Geometry together cover about 10-12 questions. Given the familiarity with these topics, they are always a good place to start. The constant practice would help navigate the tougher questions. Next comes picking up the low-hanging fruits. Number systems and probability always have a few questions on the easier side and identifying the same is crucial.

Acing one section and doing moderately well in the others is a good strategy. If Quants are the strength, then one cannot afford to be picky with the topics. Sometimes even the options can be used to answer the question. In the days leading up to CAT, continuous revision, practice and attempting mock tests build the tolerance needed to crack the exam. Having a formula book eases the preparation, and the same should be customised and worked upon as we navigate the journey. Solving a variety of questions is also important to know how to approach a question. That being said, do not get stuck on a question. You have only 40 minutes, and if time permits, you can come back to it. CAT is not the time you would want to take things on your ego!

With just about a month to CAT, the focus must be on solving mocks and constantly revising the topics. This would build confidence — the most underrated element to crack CAT. Believe that you can solve any question they throw at you and trust the preparation. Good Luck!

Professor Himanshu Rai, Director, IIM Indore, offers expert insights on how you can crack this section

Quantifying QA

wise words

ONE common challenge every student faces while preparing for the CAT exam is the daunting nature of the Quantitative Ability (QA) section. Many candidates often find themselves overwhelmed by the vast syllabus and the variety of topics covered, ranging from arithmetic to advanced algebra and geometry. The QA section is pivotal, as it tests not only mathematical skills but also the ability to apply logical reasoning to solve problems, which is crucial for success in management roles.

To effectively tackle this section, one key tip is to build a strong foundation in basic concepts. Start by revisiting fundamental formulas and principles in mathematics. Create a formula sheet for quick reference and practice problems regularly to reinforce these concepts. Another effective strategy is to focus on time management. Let me explain this by sharing my experiences of mountaineering in the Himalayas and climbing Kilimanjaro, which taught me valuable lessons about time management, pacing and preparation. During my treks, I learned that climbing a mountain is not just about strength but also about managing energy and resources wisely and not exhausting myself early on.

Similarly, if you set a specific time limit for a set number of questions and gradually reduce the time, you will become more comfortable. This will build speed and allow you to identify which types of questions consume more time.

Lastly, analyse your performance critically after each mock test. Understand where you went wrong and focus on those areas in your study plan. For instance, if you consistently struggle with questions on speed and time, dedicate more time to that topic and utilise online resources or study groups for additional support. By adopting these strategies, you can enhance your proficiency in the QA section and significantly improve your chances of scoring well in the CAT exam.

— Compiled by Harsha Tallapragada and Saumyangi Yadav

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28•10•2024
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Statue dedicated

In 1886, President Grover Cleveland dedicated the Statue of Liberty as a gift from the people of France on now Liberty Island in New York Harbor

A UNITED CELEBRATION

The occassion featured New York City's first ticker-tape parade, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets to watch the procession headed by Cleveland

THE DESIGN

The 151-foot statue, designed by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi, is in the form of a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of liberty

DID YOU KNOW?

The statue's cost was funded by contributions from the French and the Americans. *World*, a newspaper, announced that $102,000 was raised from donors

CE's guide to happenings in the city

PG 2

PIC: ALLEN EGENUSE J

Singing sensation Sunidhi Chauhan set the stage on fire with her performance on Saturday, ahead of which she spoke to *CE* on kicking off her multi-city tour from B'luru, a city she is returning to after a long time, the growing use of AI in the industry, and more

'I GIVE MY 300% TO ANYTHING I DO'

POOJA DAS

BE it the voice behind Rekha's iconic *Kaisi Paheli Zindagani* or Esha Deol's electrifying *Dhoom Machale* that became the party anthem for an entire generation, renowned singer **Sunidhi Chauhan** has held her place as a music sensation since she rose to fame in the late '90s. Known for her era-defying hits and sensational stage presence, Chauhan dazzled Bengaluru over the weekend, setting the stage ablaze in a shimmery black-stripped dress captivating the crowd with her magnetic voice and nostalgic, chart-topping numbers.

The concert was part of Alive India in Concert's 10-year anniversary celebration, aiming to support Thalassemia Free India in partnership with Rotary and provide a platform for underprivileged musicians through their Roti, Kapda, Makaan Aur Rozgaar initiative. "This concert is special because it is my first ticketed concert in Bengaluru," she shares, reflecting on the significance of the evening. "The last time I was here was a long time ago."

Chauhan has been in the spotlight recently for her collaboration with another singing superstar, Shreya Ghoshal, for the song *Chhaila*, which she remarked as her 'favourite collaboration in recent years'. Apart from her collaborations, she has also been admired by her fans for springing unexpected surprises on stage like the recent rendition of the popular *Ben 10* theme song at IIT Roorkee. "I give my 300% to anything I do and that is what I want to do for my Bengaluru fans," she says. The singer's repertoire included iconic hits like *Swing* and *Parda*.

Reflecting on the Bengaluru audience, Chauhan spoke fondly of their musical appreciation. "Oh, they're amazing! They have a great ear for music and are open to every kind of genre. They're very receptive and welcome you with open arms, which is why I'm starting this tour from Bengaluru," she remarks. "Their encouragement is so genuine, and it's a perfect place to kick off something new." Beyond the audience, Chauhan also shared her love for Bengaluru's culinary scene, highlighting that she 'loves idli and dosas'. Reflecting on the growing influence of technology in music, Chauhan says, "It's fine to use [AI] for fun... We've had autotune for a long time now, but I don't think AI can ever replicate the human voice."

Apart from her ongoing tour of I Am Home, she is set to perform in London next month for the world premiere of *The Seeker*, a musical adaptation of Hermann Hesse's *Siddhartha*, which deals with the spiritual journey of self-discovery of a man named Siddhartha during the time of Gautama Buddha. Chauhan, playing the role of Kamala, will be joining other music legends like Pete Townshend in this powerful retelling of a spiritual classic.

> *It's fine to use [AI] for fun... We've had autotune for a long time now, but I don't think AI can ever replicate the human voice* – **Sunidhi Chauhan, singer**

Allure of Agave

ASLAM GAFOOR

(The writer is a Bengaluru-based hospitality professional, food lover and travel enthusiast)

Traditionally linked with Mexico's iconic tequila and mezcal, agave spirits are rising in popularity in Bengaluru, going to show renewed interest in artisanal spirits and innovative mixology

Agave spirits, traditionally linked with Mexico's iconic tequila and mezcal, are gaining popularity worldwide, including in Bengaluru, where bartenders are embracing these spirits' diverse flavours. This rising trend reflects not only a global movement but also a renewed interest in artisanal spirits and innovative mixology.

All tequila is mezcal, but not all mezcal is tequila! The story of agave spirits begins in Mexico, where the blue agave plant is the source of tequila, while mezcal is crafted from various other agave species. The uniqueness of these spirits lies in their terroir– the specific environmental factors influencing the plants' growth – which creates distinctive flavour profiles. While tequila offers a bright, peppery character, mezcal is known for its smoky intensity. This diversity has captivated both cocktail enthusiasts and bartenders.

Bengaluru's cocktail scene is riding the agave wave, driven by both consumer curiosity and the creative possibilities the spirit offers. Many upscale bars now feature agave-focused menus, with dedicated sections for tequila and mezcal. These spirits are being incorporated into a variety of cocktails, from classic Margaritas and Palomas to innovative concoctions infused with local ingredients like tamarind and kokum, offering a taste experience that resonates with Indian palates.

"In line with our brand promise of 'Anything But Ordinary,' we have created a bar focusing on tequila and mezcal," says Kiron Kumar S, director of operations at The Park, Bangalore. The hotel's Aqua bar showcases top-shelf tequilas and mezcals, made in small batches using sustainable practices. These spirits appeal to health-conscious consumers as they are less adulterated and low in sugar. Aqua's mezcal cocktails, such as the Mezcal Old Fashioned and the Mez-Kaf, highlight the spirit's artisanal nature. "Our curated mezcal selection includes Cruz de Fuego Espadin, Creyente Espadin, Mexcalia Espadin, and Cruz de Fuego Tepeztate," adds Kumar. "With these mezcals and over 25 tequilas, we offer a unique experience celebrating agave's heritage."

Tequila has long enjoyed global recognition, but mezcal's international acclaim is relatively recent, appealing to those who seek spirits with a story. Rakshay Dhariwal, founder and director of Maya Pistola Agavepura, highlights this shift: "Agave is now seen as a spirit to be savoured in cocktails, rather than just a shooter. This transformation, underway since late 2020, is driven by agave's peppery and spicy characteristics, which resonate well with the Indian palate." The IWSR reports that agave volumes in India nearly doubled in 2023, making it the fastest-growing spirits category in global travel retail.

Sahil Essani, head mixologist at Muro, underscores the appeal of agave spirits: "There's a saying, 'what grows together goes together.' Spending time in Mexico made me realise that Indian and Mexican culinary traditions share similarities, making agave naturally suited to Indian palates." At Muro, agave cocktails drive 85 per cent of sales, reflecting its growing popularity. Essani believes mezcal holds even greater potential in India, owing to its complex, vegetal, and savoury flavours. Sustainability is also shaping agave cocktails, with bartenders sourcing local ingredients to reduce the carbon footprint associated with imported produce. Infusing agave drinks with indigenous herbs and spices not only adds unique flavours but also supports local agriculture. Meanwhile, educational efforts such as agave-themed evenings and masterclasses are helping demystify these once-intimidating spirits, much like whisky and gin before them. Pistola's 100% agave spirit, Maya Pistola Agavepura, is crafted from wild Agave Americana found on the Deccan Plateau. Although it is not a tequila, it aims to broaden the agave category's recognition.

According to Karthik S, regional manager for South and Goa at Sonarys, agave spirits, particularly tequila and mezcal, are now in high demand in India's retail stores and top cocktail bars. "As consumers' palates evolve, they are moving towards more complex drinks. Vodka was once popular because it was tasteless, but now people seek the botanical complexity of gin and the artisanal character of agave spirits," he explains.

With dedicated agave bars like Aqua, Muro, and Soka emerging, and with new mezcal brands like Cruz de Fuego making their way to India, the future looks promising for agave spirits. Dhariwal predicts that 2024 will see a focus on premium, craft, and limited-edition agave spirits, as well as events like Pistola's cocktail competitions and masterclasses.

CITY READ

CPR training programme gets Guinness World Record

Mission 3K - 3000 Hearts One Beat, an initiative by Manipal Hospitals secured a Guinness World Record for 'most people in a CPR relay', with 3,319 participants in 24 hours. Student volunteers from SSMRV College, Jayanagar, and St Francis College, Koramangala participated in the event which was conducted to increase awareness of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training in educational institutions with the rise of cardiac emergencies in the country. "Heart attack is known for its risk of sudden cardiac death, with 10-25 per cent of acute coronary syndrome leading to fatal outcomes. Acting promptly during a cardiac event is critical, yet many lack awareness of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), a life-saving technique. Our initiative aims to inspire college students from the community to respond swiftly with the life-saving skill of CPR," said Dr Sunil Dwivedi, Consultant - Cardiology at Manipal Hospital, Millers Road.

Luxury hotel hosts fundraising event for leprosy

Marriott India Business Council hosted the 10th edition of Road to Give over the weekend. The event invited participants to run, walk, or cycle in support of Rising Star Outreach of India, an NGO aiding individuals affected by leprosy through vocational training and social integration. The run, started at JW Marriott Hotel, Ashok Nagar, aimed to raise funds through registrations and donations.

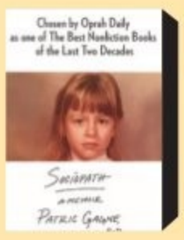
EMPOWERING EXCELLENCE

The Cubbon Park Walkers Association and the Cubbon Park Walkers Forum honour women leaders at the fourth edition of the International Women's Achievers Award at Ravindra Kalakshetra. The event highlighted inspiring contributions from awardees, including Anju Bobby George, Sowmya Reddy, Dr Arathi Krishna, Rebecca Marisa Taylor, Dr Sudha, Priya Kervashe, Gowri, Deepti Tholpadi, and Kasthuri Shankar. Key figures, including P Suresh Kumar, Senior General Manager, The New Indian Express, Mohan Raj, IAS, and Dr Umesh Kumar, President, Cubbon Park Walkers Association, graced the ceremony.

BOOK NOOK

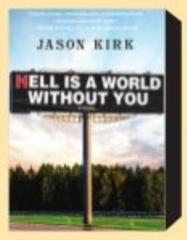
Love at First Book
By Jenn McKinlay

This cosy novel offers a heartwarming romantic tale, perfect for those who love tender love stories. Filled with warmth and charm, it captures the beauty of romance, making it a comforting read for anyone seeking a delightful escape into a world of love and connection.



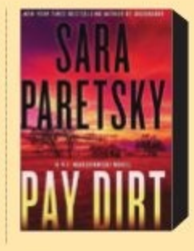
Sociopath: A Memoir
By Patric Gagne

The book explores the author's struggle to accept her sociopathy, offering a revealing look at a frequently misunderstood and stigmatised mental disorder. It provides a thought-provoking insight into the condition, challenging common misconceptions honestly and clearly.



Hell Is a World Without You
By Jason Kirk

This deeply fascinating novel offers a witty, sad, compassionate coming-of-age story. Bitingly funny and insightful, it captures the nuances of growing up with sharp humour and heartfelt emotion, presenting a poignant exploration of life's struggles and the journey to self-discovery.



Pay Dirt
By Sara Paretsky

This gripping thriller uncovers a mystery rooted in the Civil War, taking readers on an edge-of-your-seat journey. As past secrets emerge, the novel weaves historical intrigue with intense suspense, creating a thrilling and captivating tale of discovery and danger.

PERSONAL INTROSPECTION

A visitor explores Memento Mori, a solo exhibition by artist Nikil Inaya at Art Houz, Palace Road | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

PEANUT BUTTER BANANA SANDWICH

INGREDIENTS

- **Bread (whole wheat or white):** 2 slices
- **Peanut butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Banana (sliced):** 1
- **Honey (optional)** : 1 tsp
- **Cinnamon (optional)**: a pinch

METHOD

- Take two slices of bread and spread peanut butter evenly on both slices.
- Slice the banana into thin rounds and place them evenly on one of the peanut butter-coated slices.
- Drizzle a little honey over the banana slices for extra sweetness.
- Sprinkle a pinch of cinnamon on top for added flavour.
- Place the other slice of bread on top of the banana-covered slice to form a sandwich.
- Cut the sandwich into halves or quarters, and enjoy.

Contributed by **Elnah Ann Alwyn**, Kochi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Soulful Piano

Immerse yourself in an evening of serene piano music, performed by performed by **Anastasiya,** a Belarusian and set to visual sequences, connecting sound and imagery for a truly soothing experience.

WHEN: October 28, 7pm
WHERE: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur
DETAILS: bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Wax Crafts

Create a set of three beautifully-crafted candles in this beginner-friendly workshop, where materials and guidance are provided for an enjoyable experience.

WHEN: October 28, 12pm
WHERE: StoryZone, HSR Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Spooky Hour

Get ready for a thrilling Halloween experience with a special screening of the hit Korean horror *Train to Busan* (2016).

WHEN: Till October 29, 10am onwards
WHERE: The Courtyard, Shanti Nagar
DETAILS: linktr.ee/thecourtyardcommunity

Haunting Feast

Celebrate Halloween with eerie bites and spooky cocktails like Monster Masala Rolls and Bloodbath Punch. Enjoy a taste of Halloween spirit with themed dishes and drinks for a memorable night.

WHEN: October 31, 3pm onwards
WHERE: Sheraton Grand Brigade Gateway, Rajajinagar
CALL: 080-42521000

A Spooky Adventure

Celebrate Halloween with your loved ones with a variety of activities like a themed photo booth, treasure hunt, and costume contest. The best costumes stand a chance to win a ₹5,000 cash voucher.

WHEN: October 28, 11am
WHERE: Awesome Place, Nexus Whitefield
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Carnival Creations

Join a mask-painting workshop to design your unique carnival mask. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced artist, dive into colours, creativity, and inspiration.

WHEN: October 28, 2pm
WHERE: SmallWorld, Koramangala
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Scientific Poetry

Explore how art can translate scientific knowledge into poetry in this unique writing workshop led by cross-disciplinary artist **Frida Teller**.

WHEN: October 28, 5pm
WHERE: Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Sadashiva Nagar
CALL: 8296388089

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

Is there a right time to spay or neuter my cat as they can display worrisome behavior. I have a two-year-old female Persian cat.

A vet can help you determine the best time to spay or neuter your cat, which can keep them healthy and reduce unwanted behaviour. Spaying or neutering your two-year-old female Persian cat can help address and prevent worrisome behaviors such as yowling, spraying, and roaming. Ideally, cats are spayed or neutered before their first heat cycle, typically around 6-9 months of age, but it's still beneficial at two year olds. Consult your vet to determine the best timing for her specific needs. Spaying will also reduce the risk of certain health issues, such as uterine infections and breast cancer, and can lead to a more balanced temperament. Regular vet check-ups will ensure she remains healthy post-surgery.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT
HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?
@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

RECLINED KNEE CIRCLES

This is a warm up practice done in the supine position. It is a simple easy beginner practice, yoga teachers can include the same in any kind of yoga sequence. Included in therapy yoga, it can help students who are bed-ridden, or ill for long and spend a lot of time lying down. This can be a therapeutic way of improving the blood circulation in the hips and lower back.

STEPS

- Lay down on your back on a yoga mat. Hold your knees over the hips.
- Move your knees in a small, clockwise circle, feeling a massage in the lower back. Do it for 4 – 5 times.
- Hold for a couple of seconds. Then gently do the same in anticlockwise direction.
- While doing the circles, be aware that the lower back is firm on the mat.
- There is a chance of making the mistake of tilting the back sideways while rotating the knees. Avoid it by consciously keeping the lower back stable on the mat.
- Breathe normally throughout the practice.
- Practise as per your capacity and relax in Savasana (Corpse Pose) to release from the pose.

LIMITATIONS

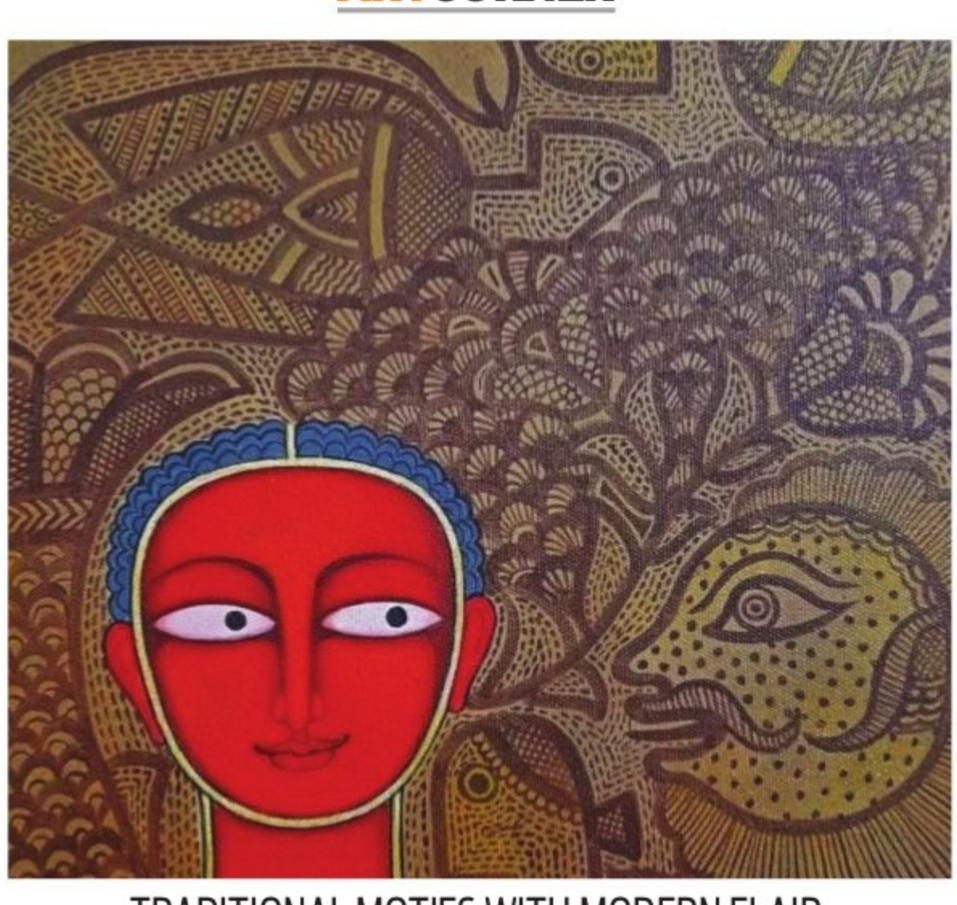
- Students with injury in the knees, hips, or pelvis, recent or old surgery in these areas, abdominal or spine surgery, any physical conditions related to abdominal organs, like liver, kidney, etc., or weak spine, knee or core muscles or recovering from an ailment, etc., avoid this.
- Using support like a blanket for hips, strapping to keep the hips and knees stable, can be considered.
- Pregnant women can do this till the second trimester after which abdominal pressure is not advisable.
- Senior citizens should be watchful of their lower back while doing this movement.

BENEFITS

- Strengthens the knees, back and core, and tones the spinal nerves at the lower back.
- Releases tightness in the knee joints and the ligaments.
- Increases the mobility of the knees and enhances flexibility.
- Prepares for poses which involves rocking and rolling or any other variation.
- Keeps the chest and upper body active.
- Encourages the downward flow of prana (apana vayu).
- Improves the functioning of the lungs, while in supine.
- Lower back is strengthened and knee joints become flexible.
- Helps in practice of other supine poses which ensures the posture and spine alignment.
- It is relaxing and is also restorative in nature.
- Gentle massage of the lower back, digestive and other internal organs, soothes the nerves and sends calming signals to the brain.
- Increases the capacity of the parasympathetic nervous system and energises the legs.
- Included for those who have infertility issues, or issues related to menopause or menstruation.
- Improves circulation of blood and metabolism.
- Very helpful for seniors to relieve the stiffness at the knees.
- Perfect for postnatal treatment as it relieves lower back pain.
- Helps senior women overcome the effects of osteoporosis like weak lumbar spine.
- Brings stability to the hips and pelvis.
- It can be done by obese people too.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

ARTCORNER



TRADITIONAL MOTIFS WITH MODERN FLAIR

Meenakshi Jha Banerjee seamlessly merges Bengali and Mithila art elements into contemporary subjects

TOBY ANTONY

With its sleek design, state-of-the-art build and high-end performance, Ultraviolette's electric sports bike F77 is certain to give its petrol counterparts a run for their money

E-haw!

WHILE the debate between EV and ICE vehicles continues to heat up in the automotive world, Bengaluru-based manufacturer Ultraviolette's F77 is a motorcycle that can bring smiles even to the most dedicated petrolheads. Though enthusiasts might miss the roar of a petrol engine in this battery-powered motorcycle, even opening the F77's throttle slightly will make the most hardcore rider appreciate the instant torque.

CE tested the top-spec version of Ultraviolette's F77 Recon for a few days on both city roads and highways. From our experience, there's more to admire than to criticise.

First of all, it takes a couple of days to familiarise yourself with all the features. You need to be attentive and eager to learn in order to operate the motorcycle's many functions. There are three different riding modes, 10 levels of switchable regenerative braking, switchable traction control, ABS, hill-hold control, reverse mode, and park assist. However, once you're riding, the way the F77 glides over the road makes its technical complexities fade into the background.

The riding position of the F77 is akin to a sports bike, with the rider leaning forward, though not as aggressively as on a true sports bike. There's no escaping the wind blast, and a full-face helmet is essential for high-speed rides. At 207 kg, it's not easy to manoeuvre the bike manually when stationary, but park assist and reverse mode are helpful in such situations.

Once the motor is on, the F77 performs like a high-end motorcycle, rivalling 350-500cc ICE bikes. The adjustable regenerative braking adds to the fun, as the bike reacts differently at each level.

The F77 Recon offers three riding modes — Glide, Combat, and Ballistic. Glide is the eco mode designed for maximum range, while Combat is the standard mode, ideal for city cruising. Ballistic mode unleashes the F77's full power, with a top speed of 155 km/h and a 0-100 km/h time of under eight seconds, placing it on par with most 300-400cc petrol bikes.

The F77 Recon is equipped with a 10.3 kWh battery generating 40.2 PS and 100 Nm of torque. The standard variant has a 7.1 kWh battery, delivering 40.2 PS and 90 Nm of torque.

Though designed for sporty rides, the F77 handles potholes and bumps well without compromising stability. With wider-section tyres, the bike grips the tarmac securely through corners. The suspension is on the firmer side but can handle rough roads with ease. The F77 is best suited for short trips and city rides rather than long highway journeys, and with a pillion, it might not be the first choice for extended rides. The ground clearance is 160 mm, though during our test ride, the bike never scraped any speed bumps or breakers.

In terms of styling, the F77 is a real head-turner. Park it anywhere, and it's sure to draw attention and questions. The LED lights are bright, with no visibility issues during night rides on rural roads. The bike comes in nine colours. While the rear-view mirrors look stylish, they are quite small, making it difficult to see vehicles behind you.

The build quality is excellent, with no panel gaps or exposed wiring. Even at speeds above 100 km/h, the bike remains vibration-free. The battery is neatly tucked in, giving the F77 the appearance of a high-performance machine.

The five-inch TFT display is bright and visible even in direct sunlight. It provides all the necessary information and changes colour based on the riding mode. However, the font size could be larger to make information easier to read at a glance.

Using a standard charger, the F77 takes less than five hours to fully charge. With a 3kW fast charger, the bike can be charged to 100 per cent in two to three hours. Ultraviolette is also launching a Supernova charging station, where the Recon can charge from 20 per cent to 80 per cent in 60 minutes, and the standard F77 in 45 minutes.

Now, while the F77 may seem pricier than 400-650cc motorcycles, it's worth doing the maths and considering the running costs. The standard F77 is priced around ₹3.5 lakh, and the Recon costs about ₹4.6 lakh. Factoring in current petrol prices, the F77 will pay for itself over time. Ultraviolette claims a running cost of ₹0.30 per kilometre, compared to ₹4 per kilometre for a 500cc petrol bike. Periodic servicing costs range from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500, with a service interval of 5,000 km or six months.

Though many riders remain loyal to ICE motorcycles, the F77 is a strong contender both now and for the future.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
THE SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Echoes from an adventure

I do not consider 'Echoes of Wisdom' as just some minor spin-off game in the Legend of Zelda series. For the first time in a very long time, Zelda is herself the main playable character in the series. In Echoes, Zelda holds the powers of a priestess that can work her magic through her staff. She can summon creatures in an instant and command them at will. It's Pokemon for those unwilling to engage in its turn-basedness.

Both the story arc and the overall universe of Echoes are no different from your usual Hyrule adventure. It starts as all the games in the series do — with someone important being kidnapped, and something unspeakably terrible affecting the lands of Hyrule. So Zelda rises to the occasion. But she cannot engage in typical combat.

This means that the entire focus of the game is solving environmental puzzles. You see, Zelda's staff has a magic ability of copying the 'echoes' of items and creatures that it encounters. So if Zelda meets a trampoline, she copies its abilities, and summons its echo at very difficult moments.

The echoes are fairly diverse and serve different purposes. My personal favourite combat support echo is the Lizalfos – a giant lizard with a spear, which attacks enemies faster than they can even spot you on the map. There's also the frankly overpowered 'bed', which serves as a multipurpose echo. Multiple beds can line up to make a neat stairway, and lying down on it even replenishes Zelda's hearts. This mechanic feels like it shouldn't exist – it makes things almost too simple sometimes.

Consequently, the game is ridiculously sized-down in comparison to the recent titles. It is scaled down in terms of the size of the map, number of quests, and the average difficulty. Now that does not mean it's always too easy, and if you are familiar with the dungeon based puzzles in the series they are diverse and complex enough to keep you engaged through the game. Echoes of Wisdom is a must-play if you are a beginner to the series, and is a Nintendo Switch exclusive.

(The writer's views are personal)

GRUB HUB

Aslam Gafoor
(@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'.** The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The winner will receive a voucher worth ₹1,000 from Serious Slice – RR Nagar**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1)Okonomiyaki 2) Doenjang 3) Bulgur

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Syed Abul Hassan Eqbal
2) Anuradha Bilkar
3) Srilakshmi S

NUGGETS

Foundation wins award in healthcare category

Biocon Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Biocon Group of Companies has won the 'Doing Good for Bharat Awards 2024' in the Healthcare category at the 11th edition of the India CSR & ESG Summit, held in New Delhi. The honour was conferred to the Foundations' eLAJ Smart Clinics programme which was launched in 2016 to enhance evidence-based preventive and primary healthcare in underserved communities.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BASKAR, S/o Sampangi, aged 49 years, R/a No.25, Bhuvaneshwari Nilaya, 5th Cross, 13th Cross, 13th Main, HAL III Stage, Kodihalli, Bangalore-560008, declare that the names **BASKAR and BASKARAN** refer to me only by virtue of Affidavit dt.26.10.2024 before Notary S.I. BALAGURU Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (Old name) **ANJALI,** mother of Service No.JC-312460M, Rank: SUB, UTPAL KUMAR SANTRA, Residing at Marich Danda (Vill), Akanda Bari (Post), Purba Medinipur (Dist), West Bengal (State), PIN: 721650, have changed my Name to (New Name) **ANJALI SANTRA,** and DOB from 01.07.1958 to 01.01.1963 Vide Affidavit Dated 25.10.2024 sworn Before Notary S.I. BALAGURU, Bangalore

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (OLD NAME) SHASHIDHARA S/o M Shamaiah, residing at # 30/246, 5th Cross, Doddaramanna Layout, (Prakruthi Layout), Hennur, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560043, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHASHIDHARA to (NEW NAME) SHASHIDHARA SHAMAIAH** vide affidavit dated 25.10.2024 sworn before Notary S.R.Nanjunda Swamy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ANIL KUMAR SHIVALINGAPPA CHANNAVEERAPPA** R/at No. 302 3rd floor Achuth Classic Apartments 6th Main 80 feet Road ITI Layout Mallathahalli Bengaluru-560056 have changed my name to **ANILKUMAR SHIVALINGAPPA** vide affidavit dated: 25/10/2024 Before Notary **K.V.Mani** Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

We, **SHWETA NIRMAL KUMAR JAIN** and **PUNEETH KUMAR VIMAL CHAND**, residing at No.B1403 Vaishnavi Terraces J P Nagar Dollars Colony, Bangalore 560078 have changed our minor son's name from **ARYAVEER** to **ARYAVEER PUNEETH JAIN**, vide affidavit dated 17/8/24 before notary **L SHANKARANARAYANA**, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AKHILESH GOWDA RAMPURA VENUGOPAL**, S/o Venugopal Rampura Venkataramanaiah, age 25 years, R/at No. 69/D, 2nd Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-560 079 do hereby declare that all the names i.e. **AKHILESH GOWDA R V, R V AKHILESH GOWDA** and **AKHILESH GOWDA RAMPURA VENUGOPAL** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **AKHILESH GOWDA RAMPURA VENUGOPAL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **RATNA.N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kum. SMRITHI DEVULACHERUVU SUSHANTH aged about 13 years, D/o Sushanth Jagannath, since **I was a minor, have been** represented by **my** natural guardian and father **Sri. SUSHANTH JAGANNATH,** residing at No. 131, 6th A Main, I E H C S Layout, Near Café Coffee Day, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097. I declare that I filed original suit for Declaration bearing Original Suit No. 2606/2024 before XVI Additional City Civil Sessions Judge (CCH12) Bangalore and the said suit came to be Decreed on 01/10/2024, declaring that my name has been changed from **SMRITHI DEVULACHERUVU SUSHANTH to SMRITHI SUSHANTH**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **ABRAHAM GNANAM KALIDAS**, S/o M. Kalidas No.02,13th Cross, 11th Main Raghavendra Layout, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru – 560015, have changed my name as **ABRAHAM GNANAM**, vide affidavit dated 22/10/24, sworn before notary Anuradha D, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **VIJAYA J,** aged about 55 years, W/o. Jayabalu P M, residing at No. 51, 3rd Cross, BabuReddy Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560032, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that, my sister Late **Muthu K** expired on 09.07.2015 (Reg. No. 43) resident of No. 18, Pillayar Kovil Street, Kulinkadu Siruvalur, Erode, Gobichettipalayam, Tamil Nadu-638054, I State that **Monishwar K** and **K Murugavelu** and **Murugavelu** are all names referring to the same person, my sister's son, as mentioned in various document, vide affidavit dated 26.10.2024, sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate and Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **BHAVISH NAGARAJAN MUTHU**, S/o. Nagarajan, aged about 21 years, previously resided at Meia Seval Village, Ambasamudra Taluk, Tirunelveli District, residing at No. 27, 5th Main, Sri Bandeshwara Swamy Layout, K.S. Town, Kengeri, Bengaluru-560060, I state that in my community certificate my name being mentioned in Tamil and English Language respectively. The name mentioned in the Tamil Language is correct, my name mentioned in the English Language is **Bavise Nagarajan** instead of **BHAVISH NAGARAJAN MUTHU.** I do hereby state that my name is **BHAVISH NAGARAJAN MUTHU.** Vide affidavit dated 26.10.2024, sworn to before T. Mallikarjuna, Advocate & Notary Public Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I SPOORTHY RAMESH alias SPOORTHY R D/O Ramesh D, R/O #209, 14th Main, A Block, Subramanya Nagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560021, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANYA VAIDEHI AATHREYA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, AKSHAT GADA, S/o. Aditya Gada, residing at #1-6/1, Garden Road, Gada Complex, Vasant Rao Jajee Layout, Gulbarga, Kalaburagi City 585102, Karnataka State, today camping at Bengaluru, have changed my name to **AKSHAT ADITYA GADA** vide Affidavit Date: 25/10/2024, sworn before Notary MEER HASSAN, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **S. ANANDA JYOTHI,** is legally wedded spouse of 10166729H, Rank Ex HAV S. PUSHPARAJ, presently residing at No. 620, 29th Main, 9th Block, CP Colony, Jayanagar, Bangalore South, Bangalore 560069 have changed my name from **S ANANDA JYOTHI** to **ANANDA JYOTHI,** vide affidavit dated: 25-10-2024, before Notary **S. Samuel Solomon,** Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **AGASTHYA**, R/o No. 3475, 1st Main Road, 6th Cross, Near J K Steels, Gayathri Nagar, Sri Rama Puram Post, Bangalore-560 024 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAGHAVENDRA KRISHNAMURTHY RAVANAPPANAVAR** to **AGASTHYA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RAGHAVENDRA KRISHNAMURTHY RAVANAPPANAVAR** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MEER HASSAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Kum. SARAYU DEVULACHERUVU SUSHANTH aged about 16 years, D/o Sushanth Jagannath, since **I was a minor, have been** represented by **my** natural guardian and father **Sri. SUSHANTH JAGANNATH,** residing at No. 131, 6th A Main, I E H C S Layout, Near Café Coffee Day, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097. I declare that I filed original suit for Declaration bearing Original Suit No.2607/2024 before XVI Additional City Civil Sessions Judge (CCH12) Bangalore and the said suit came to be Decreed on 01/10/2024, declaring that my name **has been changed from SARAYU DEVULACHERUVU SUSHANTH to SARAYU SUSHANTH**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **HEMASHREE KUMAR**, D/o. Kumar Carounanidy, residing in the Indian address of residence at No. 702, A Block, 16th Main, Sahakara Nagar, Bangalore North, Sahakara Nagar PO, Bangalore-560092, do hereby declare that **HEMASHREE KUMAR** and **HEMASHREE** both the names are belonging to one and same person i.e., myself. I state that my correct name is **HEMASHREE KUMAR,** vide affidavit dated 26.10.2024, sworn to before K.V. Nanjaiah, Advocate & Notary Public, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VISHWESHWAR GAYATRI** S/o Late Ganapati Gayatri, Aged about 70 years, Resident of E-602, Salarpuriya Sattva Melody Apartment, Pantarapalya, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560039, have changed my name from **VISHWESHWAR G. GAYATRI, VISHWESHWAR GAYATRI, VISHWESHWARA GAYATRI, VISHWESHWAR GANAPATI GAYATRI** and **SRI VISHWESHWAR GAYATRI** to **VISHWESHWAR GAYATRI** vide affidavit dated 26.10.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary **P. Anuradha** at Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Vinodh T.K. S/o Krishnan T. aged about 40 years residing at 4, 1st Main, Dwaraka Nagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-64 have changed My Daughter's Name from Kavana V to Kavana Vinodh and My Name from Vinod T.K to Vinodh T.K vide affidavit sworn in before G. R. Ravi chandra Reddy, Bengaluru on 25.10.2024

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Smt. NISHA SHARMA,** residing at # 301, Keerthi Pride Apartments, Near Narasimhaswamy Temple, Doddathogur, Electronic City Phase -1, Bangalore - 560 100, Karnataka, India, hereby declare that my name has been changed to **Smt. NISHA SHARMA SINGH** pursuant to my marriage with **Sri. GYANENDRA SINGH**, vide affidavit dated 23-10-2024 sworn before Notary : B.M. CHANDRASHEKAR

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NIDHI SUNIL PAI,** D/o Mr.Sunil Premanand Pai and Mrs. Deepa Sunil Pai, R/at No. 403, Pyramid Greenwoods Apts., Ayyappa Temple Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560 092, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NIDHI** to **NIDHI SUNIL PAI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIDHI SUNIL PAI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26th Oct. 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **UDAY KUMAR .K** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **B SWAGATH JAIN**, age 32 yers, Rat No. 47, 8th Main Road, Near Nirmala Store Bus Stop, Hanumanthnagar, Bangalore-560 050, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **B SWAGATH** to **B SWAGATH JAIN,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **B SWAGATH JAIN** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 25-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Samantha D N D/o Nagaraja D, aged about 37 years residing at Bangalore Road, Behind Vetenary Hospital Gandhinagar, Challakere, Challakere, Chitradurga Karnataka PIN Code: 577522, have changed my minor son's name from **Bhargav M Hosur** to **Bhargav S H,** vide affidavit dated 25/10/2024 sworn before R.S. Vijay advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **LAKSHMI SWATHI UPPALURI**, W/o Devendra Rao Kambhammettu, R/o No. A-24, Whistling Woods Apartments Suryavanshi Layout, Harohalli, Behind Sheel Petrol Bunk, Yelahanka Naganahalli, Bangalore -560064, have permanently changed my name from **LAKSHMI SWATHI UPPALURI** to **LAKSHMI SWATHI KAMBHAMMETTU**, vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024, sworn before notary L.Puttaraju, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **Ms. VAISHNAVI GOTHE**, aged about 24 years, D/o. Sri Venkatesh Gothe, residing at No. 136, 5th Main Padmanabhanagar, Bengaluru-560070, Karnataka, do hereby declare that **VAISHNVI VENKATESH GOTHE** and **VAISHNAVI GOTHE** both the name pertain to the one and same person, vide affidavit dated 18.10.2024, sworn to before H.G. Padmanabha Rao, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

DECLARATION

I, **ABDUL SAMI,** aged 43 years, S/o Abdul Rauff, R/at No.55/2, 15th Cross, Bhuvaneshwarinagar, Bangalore North, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore - 560032. I further declare that **SAHEE** and **ABDUL SAMI** are one and the same person and my correct name is **ABDUL SAMI** for further transaction and my correct date of birth is **24-02-1981.** Vide affidavit dated 24-10-2024 sworn before notary Leela, Bengaluru.

For SMART ADS & THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
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BAGHEERA REPRESENTS EVERYMAN AS A SUPERHERO

Prashanth Neel's one-liner Bagheera, brought to life by Dr. Suri, features Sriimurali in a dual role as a vigilante and a superhero, alongside Rukmini Vasanth as a doctor. Produced under the Hombale Productions banner, the film brings together an impressive cast, including Ram Garuda as the antagonist and other notable actors like Sudharani, Prakash Raj, Avinash, Achyuth Kumar, and Rangayana Raghu. A few actors have shared their experiences with CE and how *Bagheera* represents the everyman as a superhero.

This film is packed with action and entertainment: **Ram Garuda**

RAM Garuda, still receiving acclaim for his role in KGF, is excited to be part of Bagheera, the first Kannada superhero film from Hombale Films. Having acted in around 30 films across multiple languages, Ram finds this role particularly special. "This film is packed with action and entertainment, brought to life by a fantastic team. With music by Ajaneesh Loknath and cinematography by AJ Shetty, this is an experience that deserves to be seen in theatres," he says.

Discussing his character, Ram described the challenge of playing the antagonist. "It's complex. He believes he's right, even as his actions negatively impact society." The director, Suri, wanted to transform Ram's look for the role, which involved an extensive process. "We experimented with at least seven or eight different looks. Make-up artists from various regions came in to create Suri's vision, which features half of my face burnt. Our own make-up artist, Prakash, ultimately nailed it, but it took three hours each time," Ram explained. "*Bagheera* has a full mask, while I wear a half mask with burn effects," he shares with a chuckle. He concludes with a powerful statement: "In simple words, every common man can be a superhero if he fights for justice and stands by the truth."

An impactful role: Pramod Shetty

FOR Pramod Shetty, working on *Bagheera* is an exciting experience. This marks his second collaboration with the production house and his first with the director and lead actor. He states, "My scenes with Sriimurali have turned out very well, and like every audience member, I am eagerly waiting to see the film in theatres."

Though Pramod plays a businessman, he noted that the superhero film still highlights important family values and relationships. "I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to be part of such a big budget project," he adds.

The theme of change for the better is central to *Bagheera*: **Sudharani**

SUDHARANI shares her thoughts on her role as Sriimurali's mother in Bagheera. "The title *Bagheera* is so impressive. Many of us, whether from the '80s, '90s, or today, can connect with the famous character from The Jungle Book. The story, the team, and the making of *Bagheera* are all impressive and engaging."

Sudharani praises director Suri for his clarity and vision. "Technically, this film is a brilliant blend of extremely talented people. While many films have characters that don't leave a lasting impact, my character in *Bagheera* is the driving force of the story. Despite limited screen time, the impact is significant."

She emphasised the importance of conveying a strong message. "When a character leaves an impression, it adds weight to the story. Audiences are in for a visual treat and a fresh experience, combined with an action-packed narrative that carries a powerful emotional depth. The theme of change for the better is central to this film."

A film relevant for today's audience: **Rangayana Raghu**

RANGAYANA Raghu, who has a pivotal role in the film, echoes Pramod's sentiments. "Working with a globally recognised banner like Hombale Films is exciting. This is Dr Suri's second film, and while it features a superhero, it also mirrors our society. It's a drama that resonates with every generation."

Raghu reflects on the storytelling, mentioning Suri and Prashanth Neel's collaboration. "Together, they have woven a narrative that is relevant to today's audience while making it visually rich." He also praises the film's production quality, stating, "We shot in many beautiful locations, which adds depth to the film. Watch out for Sriimurali's role; he has taken a lot of effort to nail his character. I play his father in Bagheera, and this film has been crafted with great patience and meticulous attention to detail."

45 MUSIC RIGHTS BAGGED BY ANAND AUDIO FOR RECORD PRICE

CE FEATURES

COMPOSER Arjun Janya's directorial debut, *45*, has made headlines with the sale of its audio rights to Anand Audio for an impressive sum. The film boasts a stellar cast, featuring the legendary Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, and the talented Raj B Shetty. It is produced by Uma Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Productions banner.

The makers are gearing up for the film's audio launch, adding to the excitement among fans. The buzz surrounding *45* is palpable, driven by its remarkable cast and backed by producer Ramesh Reddy, renowned for supporting outstanding projects in the industry.

The film recently wrapped up its grand climax sequence—a lavish 30-day shoot in Bengaluru. The team promises that this climax scene will mark a landmark moment in Kannada cinema, further elevating expectations. Kaustabha Mani stars as the female lead, with Satya Hegde handling cinematography. With post-production in progress, focusing on visual effects, *45* is slated for release in early 2025.

Naa Ninna Bidalare locks release date

CE FEATURES

NAA Ninna Bidalare is getting a modern twist with a suspense thriller storyline, inspired by the classic film featuring Ananth Nag and Lakshmi. The teaser has already generated buzz, intriguing contemporary audiences.

The makers have now locked a release date for the film. Naa Ninna Bidalare is set to hit theaters this Deepavali on November 29. Distributed by Hemant from Lilac Entertainment, the film is produced by Kamala Uma Bharathi Productions and directed by Naveen GS.

Ambali Bharathi stars in the lead role, supported by a talented cast including Panchhi, Sirande Raghu, KS Sreedhar, Mahantesh, Srinivasa Prabhu, Harini, Lakshmi Siddayya, and Manjula Reddy.

The cinematography is handled by Veeresh S, while MS Tyagaraju composes the music, and Deepak GS takes care of editing.

Excitement is building as the team plans to release two songs and a theatrical trailer soon, promising to keep the momentum going after the teaser's success.

A still from the film

A thrilling journey through judgement and vulnerability

A SHARADHAA

ELLIGE Payana Yavudo Daari opens in the foreboding confines of a hospital, where we meet a distressed woman, shackled and screaming, setting the tone for an ominous tale. It soon ventures into a psychiatric ward, where we encounter unsettling imagery that blurs the line between sanity and chaos. A mysterious man transfers a woman from the hospital, adding to the growing sense of unease. A murder from three months prior still haunts the air, but the authorities remain unaware of the lurking killer, heightening the tension in the community.

In the next scene, we are introduced to Neethu (Vijayshree Kalburgi), a college student grappling with her mother's disapproval—a familiar yet significant portrayal of societal pressures on young girls. The plot takes a surreal turn as census takers visit households, specifically eyeing college-going girls, hinting at a dangerous undercurrent. Though *Ellige Payana Yavudo Daari* is billed as a suspense thriller, at its core is a much deeper narrative about the societal gaze on women, revealing its complexity and judgemental nature. In many communities, assumptions and suspicions can lead to harmful stereotypes and divisions, particularly among women. This judgement creates a toxic environment where vulnerability is exploited, highlighting the perilous dynamics that can arise among women in a judgemental society.

Director Kiren S Suryaa draws from real-life incidents to take viewers on a road trip where layers of vulnerability, strength, and danger intertwine, all within a story that feels both chilling and intimate. Soon, we meet Amar (Abhimanyu Kashinath), who, with his vintage car and windswept beard, embarks on a journey through serpentine roads accompanied by an English tune—foreshadowing both freedom and ominous encounters. Amar picks up four strangers along the way: a house painter Sampath Louis (Shobhan), a photographer who is also a pimp Seere Mohana (Pradeep Kumar HY), the college student (Neethu), and a doctor. Everyone's destination is Virajpet, and one of them may very well be the killer, threatening to bring a chilling twist to this seemingly innocuous road trip. Meanwhile, Neethu's father (Bala Rajawadi), a former police officer, searches for her, prompting Neethu to seek help from the police.

Throughout his journey, Amar shares his love with the strangers for a reason. The film's story weaves between Amar—a fine artist—and his bond with Akshara, a woman seeking solace from her past and grappling with insecurities. Their relationship is poignant, highlighting themes of trust, acceptance, and societal expectations. However, this bond is short-lived as Amar must prioritise his professional desires and is forced to stay away from Akshara for a month.

RATING 3/5

ELLIGE PAYANA YAVUDO DAARI
Director: Kiren S Suryaa
Cast: Abhimanyu Kashinath, Spoorthi Udimane, Raja Balawadi, Vijayshree Kalburgi, (Shobhan, Pradeep Kumar HY(3 / 5)

The second half of Amar's love story intensifies, unmasking the killer and his heinous motives. As Amar explains his love story to the other passengers, a brutal predator remains on the loose. Virajpet, a scenic town, becomes a battleground where one must tread carefully. The subplot sheds light on the dangers lurking within society, subtly juxtaposed with Amar's art and quest during his drive.

Ellige Payana Yavudo Daari takes viewers through a maze of emotional struggles, societal scrutiny, and introspection, especially for women. Amar's unconventional art and quiet demeanour carry a sense of sensitivity beneath the surface. His journey with Akshara connects deeply as he reclaims his sense of purpose. The film questions societal expectations, virginity, and the weight of human connection, adding layers of depth to the characters' journeys.

The cinematography and music play significant roles, with one haunting song, 'Kannu Noduthe', sung by Sudeep, enhancing the film's emotional undercurrents and deep meaning. Kiren S Suryaa's artistic direction, featuring scenes of thorns and symbols of pain and healing, merges seamlessly with the narrative's darker themes, though it can be complex to understand.

Abhimanyu Kashinath's portrayal of Amar is deeply nuanced, embodying a quiet strength. His performance resonates as a poetic exploration of resilience and vulnerability. Amar's subtlety and his bond with Akshara provide glimpses into the resilience of the human spirit, even amidst despair. Spoorthi Udimane, in her debut, delivers a bold yet sensitive performance, capturing shades of fear, love, and emotion effectively. Other actors, including Raja Balawadi, also give commendable performances.

While the film's suspenseful elements could be more unpredictable, its strength lies in its portrayal of artistic passion, societal critique, and the haunting exploration of danger lurking in seemingly safe spaces. It conveys how a woman is still judged by her words and behaviour, her company, and her very existence. The film captures the push and pull between light and darkness, beauty and madness, ultimately offering a poignant journey.

In *Ellige Payana Yavudo Daari*, the destination may be expected. Still, the path to get there remains intriguing and thought-provoking, leaving a lingering sense of reflection on how judgemental society can be towards women and how men transform them into prey in a world rife with assumptions and suspicion. A film can be viewed from different perspectives by women and men, each bringing unique experiences and societal contexts to their interpretations.